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# THE TIMES

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45p

## Poll gives Tories one-point lead

# Leaders swing election battle back to tax

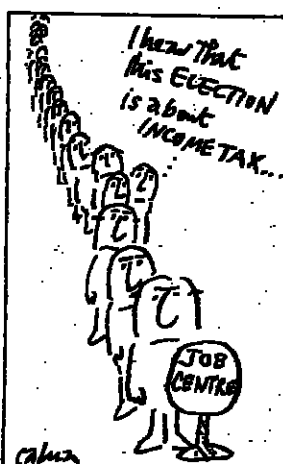
BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major made his most forceful speech last night, condemning the "nightmare vision" of Labour's tax and public spending policies.

As the campaign reverted to its original battleground of taxation, the prime minister said that a Labour government would mean increases in inflation and mortgage rates, and higher tax.

Speaking in Birmingham last night, he also declared that pension plans would be wrecked. He made his attack as the latest opinion poll gave the Conservatives a one-point lead over Labour, at the end of a day marked by fierce exchanges between Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and John Smith, his Labour counterpart.

The Harris survey for today's *Daily Express*, conducted over the weekend and yesterday, put Tory support at 40 per cent, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 17, and others 5 per cent. Last week's Harris poll gave the Tories a



five-point lead. The pollsters played down the significance of the shift because the poll was carried out only during the previous weekend.

Mr Major said last night that the Conservative future he wanted was one in which inflation was heading towards zero; taxes were falling; growth was well under way, and overtime and extra earnings were back in business. There would be a strong pound that held its value, no threats from flying pickets and there would be good state schools run by head teachers, governors and parents.

"We're not going to let socialism slither in through the back door when it's being thrown out of the front door all over the world," Mr Major said. "When they're kicking out big brother everywhere else, we're not going to let little brother come creeping back here." He said that Neil Kinnock was "nodding and winking and grinning, a foot-in-the-door salesman trying to sell you a gentle, harmless semi-democratic socialism".

Earlier the Tories angrily accused Labour of seeking to bribe the electorate with uncashed manifesto pledges, while Labour said that Mr Lamont had contradicted the prime minister's promise that there would be tax cuts every year to reach a standard rate of 20p.

During a heated debate on BBC Radio Four's *World at One*, the Chancellor accused Labour of "bidding for votes by bribery" by refusing to cost their manifesto promises. He said Labour's spending plans would lead to a bill of extra £24 a week for the average taxpayer. Mr Smith countered that the Conservatives were "disreputable" in inventing commitments for the

Labour party to fabricate claims that a Labour government would raise the standard rate of tax from 25p to 37.5p.

At a morning press conference, the shadow chancellor insisted that Labour's tax plans would leave eight out of ten voters better off, but he conceded that the difference between his budget and the Conservative one "wouldn't be very large". With the Conservatives claiming that the benefit for 11 million taxpayers would be no more than 2p to 34p a week, Mr Smith said he could not say how many people would benefit by any significant amount.

Mr Kinnock said during a tour in the Midlands that Conservative claims about Labour's tax plans were ridiculous, with the level of absurdity increasing all the time. "Not only do we need to get elected this time but we need to get re-elected. The idea therefore of putting a greater burden in extra taxation on the British people is nonsense," he said.

Labour claimed a government own goal on taxation after Mr Major yesterday set out a Tory target of reducing tax every year towards the aim of a 20p standard rate. Mr Lamont admitted at the same press conference that there was "very little room for manoeuvre either on the tax side or the spending side", which Labour said amounted to a repudiation of the prime minister.

Mr Major had argued, however, that the advantage of the new banding system was that it enabled the Chancellor to keep up tax-cutting measures even in years when there was little money available. Mr Lamont said yesterday that the Conservatives were unlikely to reach their target of a 20p standard rate in one parliament.

Mr Smith said that Labour's "fair tax system" would make most people wealthier while raising extra resources for health, education and pensions. Labour is claiming that the average taxpayer would be £100 better off.

Election '92, pages 7-11  
Leading article and letters, page 15  
Neil Kinnock's economic adviser defends Labour's tax policies, page 23  
Labour on sport, page 34  
Magnum Linklater  
L&T section, page 1

## BhS pays early bonus to beat Labour taxes

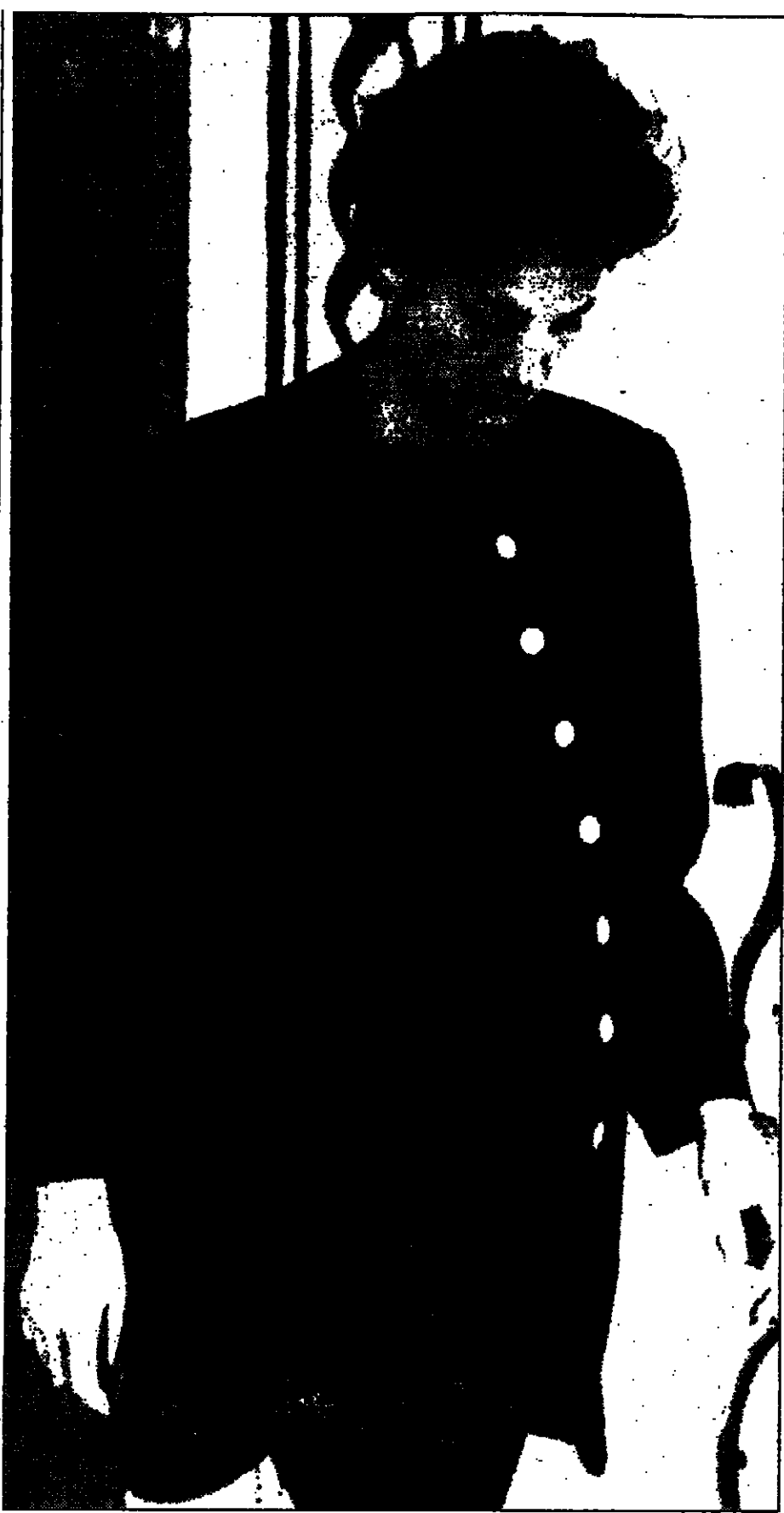
SENIOR managers of BhS, the department stores chain, have had their annual profit-related cash bonuses advanced in time to avoid higher tax rates should Labour win the election.

Although the company's financial year ended yesterday, 50 managers, all likely to fall into Labour's proposed 59 per cent tax and national insurance band, have already received their bonuses. They will pay tax at current rates.

By receiving the bonuses

before the new tax year, an average BhS manager on £60,000, receiving a 20 per cent bonus, will save £2,280 in tax should Labour come to power. The top paid executive at BhS last year was David Dworkin, who received £369,577. If he received a 20 per cent bonus of £73,915, he would currently face a tax bill of £29,566. Under Labour, it would rise to £43,609, including national insurance.

Business, page 19



Downcast daughter: the Princess of Wales leaving her Austrian hotel yesterday

## Largest cocaine haul seized

BY ELAINE FOGG

CUSTOMS officers who yesterday announced Britain's biggest ever haul of cocaine last night described how they had tracked the £150 million haul for 11 weeks.

Last night 14 people were being questioned following the find of 900 kilos, hidden in 32 large lead ingots, on board the MS *Adviser*. They had located the cocaine in January when the ship was loaded at Felixstowe, Suffolk, from Venezuela.

Operation Singer, made up of 60 customs officers and detectives from regional crime squads, followed the ingots as drugs were moved between warehouses in the Midlands and Merseyside. The seizure of the cache, which followed painstaking intelligence work, is almost equivalent to the entire Customs haul for 1991.

Customs think the cargo may have been part of a total consignment of over two tonnes of cocaine put together by a Colombian group. They believe the large ingots were used to avoid detection of the drugs by X-ray scanners.

Record haul, page 2

## More Algerians try to enter UK illegally

Algeria is displacing Nigeria as the biggest source of illegal immigration to Britain as fears of fundamentalism grow, reports Christopher Walker

Scores of Algerians are trying to enter Britain illegally every month, many of them using false French identity papers. This is a significant rise in attempted illegal immigration into Britain, a country widely perceived by Algerians as less anti-Arab than their former colonial master, France. It could increase further if the fragile state of emergency in Algeria fails to halt violent attempts by fundamentalists to impose an Islamic state.

The influx of Algerians is part of a wave of would-be immigrants trying to enter Europe from North Africa. Many head for Spain and southern Europe. Growing numbers try to enter Britain via France, and the number of Algerians trying to slip into Britain is expected to be boosted by next year's planned relaxation of EC border controls as part of the advent of the Single European Market.

Official Algerian figures obtained by *The Times* show the number of Algerians deported from Britain during the first three months of this

year was 150, compared with 350 during the whole of 1991 and 180 in 1990. Almost all those deported were stopped at ports of entry. The spiral reflects the rapidly deteriorating economic situation in Algeria and the January coup which ousted President Chadli and overturned the election in which fundamentalists scored sweeping successes.

The figures disguise a much larger number of Algerians who have successfully evaded controls. Officials claim Algeria has now joined Nigeria at the top of the league table of those states with the highest number of expulsions at point of attempted entry into Britain. Diplomatic sources said that the great majority of Algerians attempting entry after evading visa requirements were discovered at ports along the south coast.

Unscrupulous middlemen are now operating inside France to produce false identity papers for the Algerians, a Western source said. "The Continued on page 18, col 8

## Princess home for father's funeral

BY ALAN HAMILTON

DRESSED in black and accompanied by her husband, the Princess of Wales arrived back in Britain yesterday after cutting short her Austrian skiing holiday to prepare for the funeral of her father, Earl Spencer, who died of a heart attack on Sunday, aged 68. Looking sombre, the prince and princess flew from Zurich to RAF Northolt in northwest London and were immediately driven away. Their children, Prince William and Prince Harry, have been left behind at Lech in Austria in the care of their nanny.

Lord Spencer's funeral will be held at midday tomorrow at the little country church of St Mary the Virgin in the village of Great Brington, Northamptonshire, close to the family seat of Althorp. Nineteen previous Spencers are buried in the vault beneath the family chapel.

The prince and princess will lead the mourners at the earl's funeral with Raine, his wife, now the dowager countess, and Charles Althorp, his son, the ninth earl. The dowager countess's mother, Dame Barbara Cardland, the novelist, will be absent because she is appearing in a chat show on Spanish television.

The service is to be conducted by Dr Mervyn Stockwood, the former bishop of Southwark, and the Rev Norman Knibbs, vicar of St Mary's, Lord St John of Fawley, the former Norman St John Stevas, MP, who is a close family friend, will deliver an address and the ninth earl will read the lesson. The Queen, who attends the funerals only of her own close family, will not be present.

After the funeral, the dowager countess and the late earl's four children, including the princess, will accompany his coffin to the nearby town of Towcester for a private cremation.

Yesterday the gates of Althorp, the centrepiece of a 15,000-acre family estate built on a 16th-century wool fortune, remained closed to visitors. When they reopen, the new earl, his wife and year-old daughter intend to assume full running of the house and estate.

The dowager countess has already moved out to live at

Continued on page 18, col 6

Diary, page 14

TODAY IN  
THE TIMES

WOMEN  
GOING UP



Black women on both sides of the Atlantic are overcoming the effects of double discrimination  
*Life & Times, Page 4*

FAMILIES  
WAKING UP



Survival secrets for getting children happily to school  
*Life & Times, Page 5*

WILY PETS  
PLAYING UP



Neil Lyndon concedes unashamed defeat at the hands of his cats and dogs  
*Life & Times, Page 1*

## Girl wins huge award

Victoria Lovell, now aged 11, was paralysed from the neck down after an operating theatre blunder. She will receive a compensation settlement worth several million pounds, the high court was told yesterday.

Undergoing an operation to correct a squint eight years ago, she suffered irreversible brain damage leaving her unable to speak or raise her head. Page 2

## Natwest chief stands down

Tom Frost, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank, is to stand down because of the appointment of DTI inspectors to investigate the role of senior NatWest management in the aftermath of the Blue Arrow rights issue.

Derek Wanless, his deputy, is taking over "with immediate effect" to become the bank's youngest-ever chief executive. Page 19

## Singer sues

Jason Donovan, the Australian singer and actor, appeared in the high court yesterday to pursue a libel action he has brought as a result of an article in *The Face* magazine which suggested that he was homosexual. Page 2

## Yeltsin wins

Autonomous republics and regions inside the Russian Federation are meeting in Moscow to agree the final points of the federal treaty which, when signed, will present President Yeltsin with the triumph which proved beyond President Gorbachev. Page 12

## Israeli split

The resignation of David Levy as Israel's foreign minister has placed the future of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in jeopardy. Page 13

Births, marriages, deaths	16
Crossword	18
Law Report	30
Law Times	27-29
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Sport	31-36
Weather	18

Arts	2-3
Concise Crossword	11
Motor Sport	7-10
TV & radio	12



1X

## Shall I compare thee to Good Queen Bess?

BY NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the more outlandish theories about the authorship of Shakespeare's plays, that they may have been partially written by Queen Elizabeth I, has been given some credence by computers that analyse faces.

Studies of the engraving that adorns the First Folio of the Bard's works, and which some researchers have speculated holds the clue to the real author of the plays and sonnets, have found a striking resemblance to the features of Good Queen Bess.

The findings, published in the American magazine *Play*, are by Lillian Schwartz, a consultant at AT&T Laboratories in Murrayfield, New Jersey. Dr Schwartz's computer matching of facial features became a source of avid debate in 1986 when



Are they by any chance related? Bard and Queen

she linked the mystery model of the *Mona Lisa* with that of its artist, Leonardo da Vinci. She turned to Shakespeare after being contacted by Leslie Dressler, an academic at the Virginia Com-



monwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Dr Dressler believes that the Earl of Oxford was the real author of the plays. She hoped the computer matching of the Folio engraving, made by Martin Droeshout and pub-

lished in 1623, might reveal the earl's face and further his claim.

Image analysis of the Shakespeare engraving and paintings of the earl found no likeness between the two. Dr Schwartz also tried to image-match the engraving with paintings of Edward de Vere, Francis Drake, Francis Bacon and more than a dozen other men linked with the mystery, but without success.

She was on a trip to the National Portrait Gallery in London when her attention was turned to Queen Elizabeth after seeing the 1588 portrait painted by George Gower. "It was there that I saw the Queen's eyes staring out at me and I thought, my God, this is incredible. I had been working with the engraving for months but I had not even really considered the queen," Dr Schwartz said. She then carried out her

Continued on page 18, col 8

I'll be staying  
at home  
tomorrow.  
(I'm no fool.)





## 14 held after Customs seize £150m record cocaine haul

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CUSTOMS investigators were questioning 14 people last night after the seizure of a record cache of 935 kilos of cocaine worth up to £150 million which had been smuggled into Britain hidden in lead ingots.

The seizure, prompted by intelligence work, is not far short of the entire customs haul for 1991, which reached just over 2 tonnes. It is the largest recovery in Britain and one of the largest in Europe.

The large ingots may have been used to avoid detection of the drugs by x-ray scanners. But customs officers used special equipment capable of identifying whether they were solid or hollow.

Investigators believe the cargo was part of a total consignment of more than two tonnes of cocaine put together by a Colombian group and destined for the United States and Europe. Earlier this year Dutch police found 800 kilos of cocaine hidden inside lead ingots unloaded from a freighter which had also sailed from Venezuela. In Venezuela police have seized 300 kilos of the drug.

The British find was hidden in 32 large ingots weighing 64 tonnes which were unloaded at Felixstowe in January from the MS Adviser, which had arrived from Venezuela.

The ingots, each holding 30 to 35 kilos of cocaine, were examined by customs officers and placed under 24-hour surveillance for 11 weeks as they were carried from warehouse to warehouse in the Midlands and Merseyside in two lorries until the traffickers

thought that they were safe.

Customs officers emptied the ingots while they were stored in one of the warehouses, melting off their tops and removing the drugs in a 36-hour operation.

Just as the distribution operation was about to begin in Merseyside, 60 customs officers and detectives from regional crime squads struck in a co-ordinated investigation called Operation Singer.

Other large drug seizures have been made in Britain and customs officers believe that those had been en route to Europe or the United States. But this time they think that the cargo was meant for the British market. The cocaine has a high level of purity.

Sir Brian Urwin, chairman of the board of HM Customs and Excise, said: "This is the biggest single haul of cocaine seized in the UK. This success resulted from international co-operation and the pooling of resources by the customs service and several regional crime squads."

Sir Brian praised the "extremely difficult" surveillance operation which tracked the drugs to Liverpool.

American authorities have been warning for some years that Europe will see an upsurge of cocaine abuse because the US market is saturated and prices in Europe are still relatively high. The price of a gram ranges from £50 to £100. The cache found by Customs would have been adulterated to generate considerable profits.

## Bungalow man 'was merciless killer'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ALBERT Dryden was a merciless killer and not mentally ill when he shot dead a council planning officer, Newcastle crown court was told yesterday.

John Milford, QC, for the prosecution, was making his closing speech in the case against Mr Dryden who has denied murdering Harry Collinson, chief planning officer of Derwentside council, as he supervised the demolition of Mr Dryden's illegally-built bungalow.

The defence had produced psychiatric evidence claiming that Mr Dryden, aged 51, was mentally unbalanced by a continuing dispute with the local authority over his home near Consett, Co Durham. Mr Milford said, however: "He was a man who had decided what he was going to do. He used a firearm not to frighten or wound but to kill."

Mr Dryden is alleged to have shot Mr Collinson at close range and fired twice more into his body. "That first bullet went mercilessly into Mr Collinson's heart," Mr Milford said. "Should there be any doubt about its effectiveness, two further bullets went into his vital organs. That was murder."

The shooting last June was recorded by a local television crew and yesterday the jury watched the videotape for a second time. Mr Dryden has also denied attempting to murder Tony Belmont, a television reporter, and PC Stephen Campbell, who were wounded, and Michael Dunstan, a council solicitor, who escaped unhurt.

In the video, Mr Dryden was heard to tell the planning officer: "You are making a sad decision." Mr Milford said: "The decision had been made. If they didn't turn back then as a last resort he was going to get that gun and use it murderously."

The case continues today.



Court role: Jason Donovan in London yesterday

## Jason Donovan says sex slur disgusted him

BY LIN JENKINS

JASON Donovan, the Australian actor and pop star, told the high court yesterday that he was disgusted when a magazine article suggested that he was homosexual and had lied about his sexual preference.

Charles Gray, QC, his counsel, said that the star of the West End revival of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* had been about to break into serious acting after a string of top ten hits and a stint in the Australian soap opera *Neighbours* when *The Face* magazine printed the article last August.

Mr Donovan, aged 23, wearing a purple suit, white shirt and multi-coloured tie, is suing Nicholas Logan and Wagadoo Ltd, publishers of the magazine and Benjamin Summerville, a freelance journalist, for libel. They deny libel.

Mr Gray held up a "crude and deeply offensive" photograph from the article. He told the jury that emblazoned across the T-shirt Mr Donovan appeared to be wearing were the words "Queer as f---". The photograph with the accompanying text could only indicate to readers that he was "queer, gay, homosexual" and that his protestations that he was not were a "dishonest and deceitful pretence".

The photograph was a reproduction of a poster which appeared on walls in London last year. The magazine argued that it was an obvious composite picture with the words superimposed on the photograph.

Mr Donovan said he was not and never had been homosexual. He added that he had been disgusted by the article. "Look at it. This photo was taken when I was

in *Neighbours* in 1986. Suddenly I pick up a magazine that I read and which influences my friends and people in the entertainment industry, and now I am standing with the words 'Queer as f---' on the front of the T-shirt."

He said: "People look up to me as an influence. Young kids certainly do. I see myself as a role model, someone who has set up an image, and I don't try and tamper with that too much — I don't wear outrageous clothes or do something different."

Mr Gray said the reader would think Mr Donovan had posed in the T-shirt in an unguarded moment, thus confessing to his true sexuality. Alternatively, the words could have been superimposed by someone to indicate in "graphic and striking terms" that his sexual preference was for boys or young men.

He said *The Face* maintained that the article was a serious piece about "outing", by which secret homosexuals are identified. "The defence of public interest or public concern which they put forward is really no more than a shallow and shabby pretext for disseminating what is an injurious and insidious slur on this young man."

Mr Gray said the truth of Mr Donovan's sexual preference should be private, but it was necessary to disclose it in this action. Mr Donovan's preference was, and had always been, the opposite sex. He saw nothing wrong with homosexuals, but objected to the photograph and article since it suggested that his public denials of being homosexual were deceitful. The trial continues today.

## Cornishman loses poll tax rebellion

BY DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CORNISH pensioner who claimed that investors in his tin mining company would have immunity from the community charge lost his battle to establish the legality of the scheme in the High Court yesterday.

Fred Trull, aged 67, who describes himself as clerk to the Cornish Stannary tin miners' parliament, was ordered by Mr Justice Millett to cease trading in his Royal Cornish Consuls United Tin Mines Cost Book Company.

The judge granted the trade and industry department final judgment against Mr Trull, of Lerryn, near Lostwithiel, who had claimed that a decree of Henry VII gave investors in tin mines immunity from taxes levied by Parliament. Ruling that no such exemption existed in law, the judge granted permanent injunctions banning Mr Trull and his colleague, Carl Skewes, from carrying on or advertising an investment business in the name of the tin mine company.

Mr Trull, described by the judge as a Cornishman "not only by allegiance but by profession", had argued that the Duchy of Cornwall was not part of the United Kingdom.

The judge said the argument was "so misconceived" that it was difficult to know how it was put forward. "It is factually and historically wrong. Cornwall is at least as much a part of England as Pimlico," he said. "This contention seems to me to demean the many

loyal Cornishmen who have also been loyal Englishmen and the many Cornish regiments who have fought so valiantly for England and Cornwall in all parts of the globe."

The 1508 charter of Henry VII which Mr Trull claimed exempted Cornish tinners from paying taxes was a long and difficult document, but that was not its effect, the judge said. It was merely a promise by the king that neither he nor the Duke of Cornwall would make further demands on tinners without the consent of the stannary parliament, which had not been convened since 1753.

The tinners' parliament probably could no longer be legally assembled, although Mr Trull had purposed to do so, the judge said. Since their abolition in 1896, there had been no stannary courts.

His company, which was not limited by guarantee, had left investors seriously exposed. In law each shareholder was personally liable for all its debts and it had not been authorised as an investment scheme.

Mr Trull, who argued his case in person, said the share scheme had raised about £110,000 from people subscribing for £1 shares and most of the investors did not want their money back. He and Mr Skewes were ordered to pay the costs of the three-day hearing. Mr Trull said that he would consider an appeal.

## Nurse sues clothes shop for the loss of her job

A NURSE'S shopping trip to buy clothes for a holiday ended in pain, humiliation and the loss of her career prospects when a store manager detained her on suspicion of trying to pass a counterfeit banknote, the High Court was told yesterday.

Eleanor Robinson, aged 47, of Islington, north London, paid for an £8 summer jacket with a £20 note at a sale at Dorothy Perkins in Wood Green, north London.

She thought it was a bargain, but "the cost of that shopping trip for Mrs Robinson was huge", Matthias Kelly, her counsel, told Mr Justice Tudor Evans and a jury of eight women and four men.

Mrs Robinson is suing the shop for damages for wrongful imprisonment, assault and the pain and suffering caused in July 1988 when Ian Shaw, its manager, prevented her from leaving an office in which she was being held

after she tried to pay for the jacket.

Mr Kelly said Mrs Robinson was allowed to leave the shop only after the police were called and the banknote was found to be of a type then being taken out of circulation, but still valid.

By then she had suffered injuries to her right arm and shoulder, which led to her being unable to continue working as an agency nurse at the national hospital for nervous diseases, where she was due to take a staff job. She had to abandon a course in neurological nursing and her hopes of furthering her career were destroyed.

Mr Kelly said Mrs Robinson had pointed out to Mr Shaw that it was an old-style note and she invited him to telephone her building society, where she had obtained it, to verify her story. But he did not do so.

When Mrs Robinson rose to go, Mr Shaw said he was calling the police. As she reached the door, a "horrible and frightening incident" ensued. There was a struggle. Mr Shaw put an arm round her neck and jerked back her right shoulder, immediately putting her in pain. She was pulled back into the room. By that time a security man had entered and stood guarding the door, Mr Kelly said.

After the arrival of the police, who cleared her of any suspicion, Mrs Robinson left the store "shaking, in pain, crying and feeling she had been humiliated".

The case continues today.

## Inmates appeal for enquiry on verdicts

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE cases of 22 prisoners who claim to be the victims of miscarriages of justice were sent to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice yesterday with a call that each should be investigated further.

They were sent by the National Association of Probation Officers, which estimated that there could be more than 700 prisoners wrongly convicted. The association called for the setting up of a miscarriages of justice commission employing its own legal staff and with the power to investigate and hear all aspects of a conviction.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary, said that the main concern about the 22 convictions centred on confessions obtained under

pressure and in the absence of a lawyer, the alleged fabrication of evidence, lack of forensic collaboration, unreliable prosecution witnesses, biased summing up and alleged misdirection of the jury. The submission also highlighted the difficulty prisoners claiming their innocence experience in qualifying for parole. "Those who have tried to engage with the parole system have been thwarted," Mr Fletcher said.

The association said that the Court of Appeal and the discretionary power of the Home Office to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice were inadequate to deal with the number of claims being made by prisoners.

Freedom forfeited, page 5

## Schools opt out 'too fast'

Schools opting out of local authority control are achieving grant-maintained status with "unprecedented haste", according to an analysis published yesterday by the local authority-funded group Local Schools Information (Matthew D'Ancona writes).

Since February 7, 35 schools have been told that they can opt out on April 1, giving them a maximum of eight weeks to arrange services previously provided by the local authority, the report said. Ten have been given the go-ahead this month and five face a transitional period of only three weeks.

## £151,000 for Bentley racer

A classic three-litre Bentley sports car which broke the lap record in the Le Mans 24 hour race in 1926 sold for £151,800 at Sotheby's yesterday — £30,000 above the expected price.

The buyer is Stanley Mann, a leading Bentley dealer, who may race it again. He said he was "punch drunk" after a tense four-minute bidding battle against four competitors on the telephone during the sale at RAF Hendon, north London.

## Skydive charge

Robert George, aged 32, of Whitechurch, Shropshire, and David Harrison, aged 37, of Newmarket, Suffolk, were remanded on unconditional bail by Whitechurch magistrates until May 11 after being charged jointly with the unlawful killing of John Ward, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, who died on a parachute jump last August. Richard Thurman, the pilot, also faces two charges.

## Ham roll theft

Dennis James, aged 28, of Harlesden, northwest London, was given a 12-month conditional discharge after admitting stealing a £1.50 ham roll from a supermarket on Saturday by putting it down his trousers. Marylebone magistrates were told that he had been kept in custody after saying that he might not attend court.

## M25 blocked

A pile-up involving ten cars and a car transporter blocked all northbound lanes of the M25 near Denham, Buckinghamshire, yesterday.



Hidden haul: a customs officer uses a welding torch to melt a hole in one of the lead ingots

## Cash laundered in property sales

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard is appealing to estate agents to look out for drug money which is being laundered through property companies.

A senior customs officer with the National Drugs Intelligence Unit has written an article in *The Estate Agent*, the monthly magazine of the National Association of Estate Agents, to alert agents to the dangers. The report is headlined: "How drugs money finds a new home in property — you can help."

The officer says that he decided to write the article after being involved in many of the big drug trafficking investigations of the past few years. "In virtually all of these investigations, I found that the proceeds of drug trafficking had been laundered through the property industry," he writes.

The issue of laundering money is of particular concern at present, with the increasing popularity of selling property, especially repossessions, at auction in a depressed market. "Property sold by auction is a highly likely outlet for drugs cash," the article says.

Although it is impossible to know whether drugs money is being used for a property transaction, the article says that the use of large sums of cash is usually an indication that the source of the money is not legitimate. The report is illustrated by a photograph of bundles of £50 notes.

The National Association of Estate Agents said yesterday that agents' keenness to sell in a depressed market meant that there was a need for extra vigilance. The association is planning to start a service operated by branch officers offering advice and information to agents.

The article says: "There have already been well documented cases where con-

THE therm, which has been used to calculate gas bills for 70 years, expires today. From tomorrow all gas bills in Britain will be charged, like electricity bills, in kilowatt hours.

Since the decision follows a European directive which will rid Britain of almost all its imperial units of measurement except the mile for road signs and the pint for draught beer and returnable milk bottles, one might expect a storm of protest. The difficulty is that, though the therm has been held in some affection, no one was quite sure what it was.

Even British Gas had to look it up yesterday. The answer, which is for the record's sake only at this late juncture, is that the therm was equivalent to 100,000

## Another little piece of British eccentricity becomes history today. Robin Young explains why there are no protests

British thermal units. The British thermal unit, for those whose memories of the science class is hazy, is the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of pure water by one degree Fahrenheit. Since pounds, pure water and Fahrenheit are all things of the past, the therm and BTU were obviously ripe for replacement.

Affection attaching to the mysterious therm lingers particularly around the engaging little character known as Mr Therm. Hurdled produced for a London advertising agency

by an artist called Eric Fraser in the 1930s. Mr Therm was depicted as the advertising logo of the Gas Light and Coke Company, predecessors of what is now British Gas North Thames. He proved so popular that he was adopted by the industry as a whole when it was nationalised after the war, and remained in service until the 1960s.

Now that units for gas and electricity are the same, costs and consumption of the two fuels will be more easily compared. Gas customers in future will be paying 1.566p per kilowatt hour

(kWh). Though electricity prices vary from region to region, the average cost of a standard domestic electricity tariff works out around 7.5p per kWh.

What is less easily discerned is how gas meter readings are converted into the sums on the bill. That is because gas meters read neither therms nor kilowatt hours, but cubic feet. Gas bills will therefore have to show the conversion first to cubic metres (to get out of the dreaded imperial system) and then to kilowatt hours.

The calculation will be explained in leaflets accompanying the first metric bills and in showroom literature available from today. It goes like this: the volume in cubic feet is divided by 2.83 to



Mr Therm: made his debut in the 1930s

convert it to cubic metres. The number of cubic metres is multiplied by the calorific value of the gas supplied, which is shown on the bill and is likely to be about 38.1

megajoules per cubic metre. To get kWh, the resulting answer is divided by 3.6.

To avoid accusations that the change will result in raised prices on the quiet, British Gas is assuring customers that its computers have been programmed to round down in all cases. There is, for example, a saving of 0.0001733p per kWh on the gas price itself. Further marginal savings will accrue from rounding down the conversions from cubic feet to cubic metres and from cubic metres to kilowatt hours.

There will not be a fortune in it for anyone — unless, that is, some bright advertising spark can cumulate Eric Fraser's achievement and turn the kWh into a bankable publicity asset.

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Medical error during routine operation for squint left victim unable to speak or raise her head

## Paralysed girl likely to get millions

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL paralysed from the neck down after a blunder in a routine operation to correct a squint is to receive a compensation settlement worth several million pounds.

The High Court was told yesterday that Victoria Lovell, now aged 11, suffered irreversible brain damage eight years ago which has left her unable to speak or even raise her head from the pillow — although she can see and smile.

No damages figure was announced in court when an agreement for a structured settlement was reached in the action brought on behalf of Victoria. But it will be based on a conventional lump sum award of well over £750,000, which the court approved.

The child had a cold when she was admitted to Southampton eye hospital to have her squint corrected. The combined effect of anaesthetic and the cold blocked her airways and she suffered oxygen starvation, resulting in massive brain damage.

She is said to be "mad keen" on Cliff Richard. But she is dependent on her parents for every need and has to stick out her tongue to indicate "yes" and "no" in re-

sponse to questions. Mr Justice Otton adjourned the case for negotiations to continue on a new style of structured settlement. That would give Victoria an inflation-proof annual investment income to provide care for the rest of her life.

In spite of her disabilities, she is expected to live into her fifties and on that basis would receive several millions over the years.

The record structured settlement was made last July, with £14.8 million agreed for a road crash victim, Raymond Everett, aged 29.

The judge watched a video entitled *A Day In The Life Of Victoria Lovell*, showing how the child is cared for at home in Lundy Close, Lordshill, Southampton, by her parents, June and Michael, and at a special school.

He said: "One thing sticks out above the human devastation of this young life and that is the courage and devotion of parents." He added that they had "borne a heavy burden with patience and love" and had formed a relationship with the girl.

The judge said that the parents were in their fifties and, in spite of their wish to



Eight years on: Victoria Lovell at the High Court yesterday when it was agreed that she should receive a structured settlement

care for Victoria themselves, parents would need to be brought in to help as they grew older, and those carers would eventually take over from her parents, he said. Approving the settlement negotiations, the judge referred to the "devastation of this young life".

Southampton and South West Hampshire health au-

thority and Eric Machell, an anaesthetist, of Ampfield, near Romsey, admitted liability. It is hoped that a settlement can be announced within six weeks.

Outside court, lawyers said the hoped-for structured settlement, involving investment of a lump sum award of over £750,000, would result in Victoria receiving life in-

come running into "several millions". Edwin Glasgow, QC, for the Lovells, said their devotion to Victoria was remarkable. They had given up their lives to care for her.

The structured settlement, which provides a regular income over a period, is fast replacing the traditional lump sum award in medical

negligence or road accident cases. It has tax benefits and removes the uncertainty and worry about whether the lump sum award would last for a victim's lifetime.

Previous structured settlements include: January 1991, Gary Lee Grimsley, aged 15, £2.1 million for minimum 30 years or life; June 1991, Heidi Everett,

aged 14, £8.9 million paid over 50 years; a record sum in July 1991, Raymond Everett, aged 29, £14.8 million paid up to 85; August 1991, John Payne, aged 12, £13 million up to 65; October 1991, Anthony Moore, aged 34, £4.8 million if he lives for 40 years; October 1991, Alexandra Mulligan, aged five, £10 million.

## Pub chefs unveil the foreman's lunch

By ROBIN YOUNG

A NEW concept in pub food, the foreman's lunch, was launched yesterday by William Davis, chairman of the British Tourist Authority. As part of a campaign to improve the reputation abroad of British food he had recruited leading chefs from England, Scotland and Wales to devise high quality lunch dishes at pub prices.

"We all know what the ploughman had for lunch," Mr Davis said. "What I ask, does he want when he is promoted to foreman?"

According to Franco Tarascio of the Walnut Tree Inn, Abingdon, Oxford, it could be turkey ossu buco at £7.75. Phil Vickery of The Castle at Taunton, Somerset, suggested braised beef with herb dumplings, celery and carrots (£4.70). David Hall from Murrays Hotel at Scone, Tayside, came up with spicy chicken and lemon kebabs (£4.75).

These and other recipes will be available next month at 205 Whitbread pubs in the Breweries, Inns and Wayside Inns chains. "The trouble with most 'decent' pub food in Britain," Mr Vickery said, "is that the people preparing it cannot cook."

Mr Davis, tucking into a "special", said: "We expect foreign tourists to spend £1.75 billion eating in Britain this year. 'Great Britain — great food' is a message we will soon be able to spread throughout the world."

Youths convicted of killing go free

## Sentence appeal misfires

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO youths convicted of killing a 16-year-old school pupil walked free yesterday after an appeal by the Attorney-General against the alleged leniency of their sentences misfired.

The Court of Appeal ruled that the manslaughter conviction against Daniel Priestley, aged 17, was unsafe and unsatisfactory in the light of the trial jury's acquittal of a third youth and of inconclusive medical evidence over

what injury led to the death of Jonathan Sims, aged 16, four days after the attack on him in a Salisbury street.

The appeal judges went on to reject a request by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney-General, for an increase in the sentence on the other convicted youth, Mark Willocks, aged 16. Both had been sentenced to 12 months' youth custody.

Lord Justice Woolf, sitting

with Mr Justice Scott Baker and Mr Justice Hadden, agreed with the trial judge at Winchester crown court that the attack had been cowardly. But he said that the judge's hands were tied by laws relating to the sentencing of young offenders. He was allowed to impose either up to 12 months' detention or two years or more.

The case of Willocks, aged 15 at the time of Jonathan's death, was "borderline", Lord Justice Woolf said, and the decision to impose a lower-scale sentence was not wrong in principle. Willocks was due for release with remission today and the court was reluctant to order an increase so near the end of a sentence.

Both youths were sentenced on October 25 last year for an alleged "grudge" attack on Jonathan, of Burgess Green, Salisbury, after he left a party in October 1990. Willocks, who had pleaded guilty to manslaughter, admitted punching Jonathan, and Priestley was alleged to have kicked him. The injuries would not normally have proved fatal, but he died in hospital four days later from a brain haemorrhage.

Lord Justice Woolf said that the court had "grave misgivings" over the appropriateness of the Attorney-General's intervention in the case.

The Crown Prosecution Service had advised against an appeal, but Sir Patrick was persuaded to bring it by Robert Key, a junior government minister and MP for Salisbury in the last parliament. Mr Key said yesterday: "He was absolutely right to ask for leave to appeal, given the public response locally. I was grateful to him for the trouble he took in this case."

## Air safety search 'can add to fares'

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE constant search for improved safety equipment in passenger aircraft could force up fares and push passengers onto other, less safe, forms of transport, a conference on air safety was told in London yesterday.

Tom McSweeney of the US Federal Aviation Authority, said that the supply of "safety dollars" was limited and that before new and costly improvements to passenger cabins were introduced a careful study should be undertaken about their benefits. He listed new safety regulations introduced over the past ten years, including many as a direct result of two of Britain's worst air accidents at Manchester in 1985 and Kegworth in 1989.

Dick Duffell of the Civil Aviation Authority said that since the late 1960s 64 per cent of all fatalities would still have occurred despite any improvement in cabin safety. Only in 14 per cent of accidents might such measures

have improved the chances of survival, equating to the lives of 120 passengers a year world-wide or six in Britain.

The conference, organised by the parliamentary advisory council for transport safety at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, also heard experts and air crash survivors say that more needed to be done urgently to improve safety. Wing Commander David Anton of the RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine said that rear-facing seats and upper torso harnesses would cut injury risks and that in-flight videos fitted to seats could be dangerous in an accident.

There were calls for strengthened overhead luggage bins, the installation of smoke hoods, stronger floors, and tighter control over the amount of hand luggage. Donat Desmond, a survivor of the M1 crash, accused the safety authorities of "delaying, filibustering and blocking".

## New Brontë death theory

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE long-held belief that Charlotte Brontë died from complications in pregnancy has been challenged by an American gynaecologist who has studied doctors' reports of the death of the author of *Jane Eyre*.

Gerson Weiss, of the New Jersey Medical School, says that Brontë, who died 137 years ago today, was not pregnant and died from Addison's disease, a condition caused by the failure of the adrenal glands.

If she had died from severe and sustained bouts of morning sickness (a condition known as hyperemesis gravidarum, or HG), she would have died from dehydration, but Elizabeth Gaskell's biography seems to rule that out. Professor Weiss says. Two weeks before she died, she regained her appetite and began "to beg for food and swallow eagerly", according to Gas-



Charlotte Brontë: 'was not pregnant'

sell. The symptoms are closer to those of Addison's disease, described as anorexia, nausea and loss of weight. Professor Weiss believes.

The condition is caused by the failure of the adrenal glands, located at the upper end of the kidneys, to secrete several hormones which are important in maintaining the body's bal-

ance of water and salts. Biochemical tests did not exist in Brontë's lifetime and it is unlikely that a proper pregnancy examination was made, he says.

Professor Weiss adds that understanding the cause of Brontë's death affects our view of her life and perceptions of her creativity. Some psychiatrists believe HG to be the unconscious rejection of femininity and one, Lucile Dooley, has written that Brontë was "fearful, conflicted and reluctant to accept her marriage and impending childbirth", an immature neurotic who simply wrote a vivid description of her own life.

Professor Weiss is seeking to protect Brontë from psycho-biography by providing a posthumous diagnosis of what ailed her. "Ascribing unexplained symptoms in anyone to either neurosis or hysteria is inappropriate today as it was in the mid-19th century," he says.

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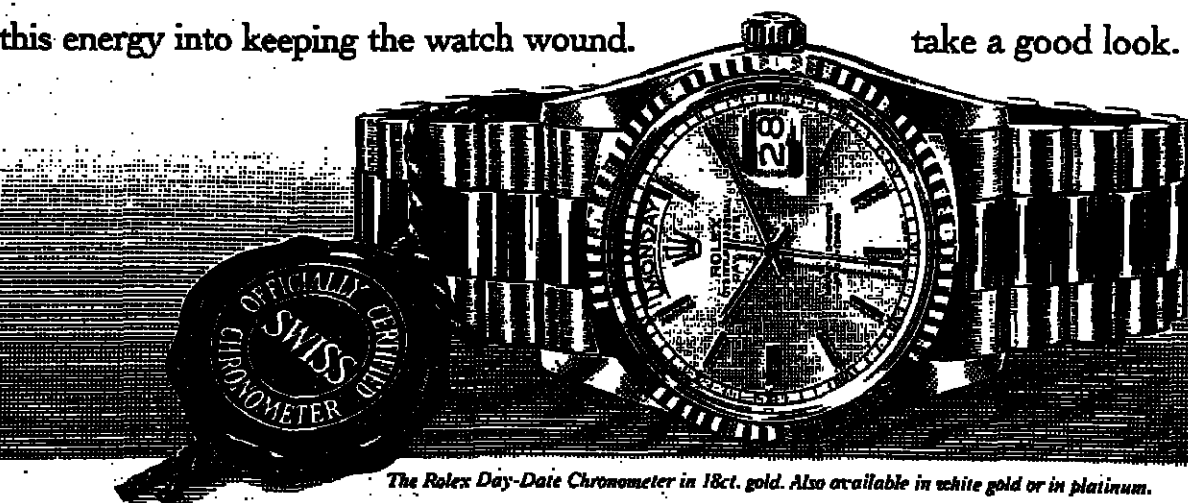
Indeed, you will never see any of the 220 different parts that it has taken a whole year to manufacture and assemble. Every single one of these parts will have been tested, inspected, and cleaned ultrasonically over and over again.

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\*Source: What Car? †Manufacturer's recommended retail prices include car tax and VAT but exclude delivery, and are correct at time of going to press. Nissan delivery package of £375 comprises delivery to dealer, number plates and full tank of petrol. Vauxhall delivery package of £360 comprises delivery to dealer and number plates.

with chief  
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Smackin'  
leaves  
a legacy



# Lifer pays with his freedom for insisting verdict was wrong



Lord Harris: 'Political intervention' attacked

A MODEL prisoner who absconded from jail in despair after serving 24 years for a murder he denies committing has become the focus of a campaign to reform the system in which "lifers" are released on licence by the home secretary.

Roger Payne, aged 50, who has been on the run for six months, was consistently denied release by Home Office ministers in spite of recommendations for release by the Parole Board in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice. The reason for the continued imprisonment of the former bank clerk, who was convicted in 1967 of the murder of Claire Josephs, a 20-year-old secretary, is said to be his repeated protestations of innocence.

Peter Timms, former governor of Maidstone prison, where Payne spent part of his life sentence, said yesterday that he sympathised with Payne's predicament. In a decade, the home secretary's veto on Parole Board recommenda-

A man serving life for murder cannot gain release on licence because he protests his innocence. Michael Horsnell reports

tions for release of prisoners serving life sentences has increased from 3 per cent to 30 per cent. Campaigners blame the increase on a new "culture of severity" at the Home Office.

Lord Harris of Greenwich, former chairman of the Parole Board, attacked the way ministers ignored the views of judges and the Lord Chief Justice, while the Howard League for Penal Reform called for a government review of the life licence system.

Lord Harris said: "It is grossly unjust that the views of the trial judge and the Lord Chief Justice can be ignored. It is political intervention in what should be a judicial process and that gravely undermines the integrity and fairness of the system."

Payne, from Maidstone, escaped from Lindholme prison, Yorkshire, last October nearly 24 years after being convicted on forensic evidence at the Central Criminal Court of the apparently motiveless murder with a bread knife of Mrs Josephs at her home in Shortlands, Kent.

He remained a category A prisoner at Wormwood Scrubs until 1975 but was transferred to Maidstone the following year. Payne became education orderly and as a "blue band" prisoner was trusted within two years of his transfer to escort other prisoners unsupervised by prison officers. He regularly tended the governor's garden at his home outside Maidstone and took tea with Mr Timms and his wife. Three years after transferring there, Payne launched an unsuccessful High Court action to

force the Parole Board to give its reasons for twice refusing him life release.

In 1981, he was again rejected by the board, without a reason being given. In 1988, 20 years into his sentence, he was transferred to Leyhill open prison, near Bristol, where he was told it would be a further two years before his case would be reviewed. At Leyhill he was released three days a week to serve an apprenticeship with Creative Glass, a Bristol company making stained and decorative glass, and allowed home leave at weekends to see his mother.

Mike Slaughter, a partner of the firm, said: "Roger was a good employee and the plan was that when he was released he would work for us full-time. He even went, without supervision, to look at houses where he might live. He was totally reliable in all respects."

In 1990, the Parole Board recommended Payne's release to the home secretary but, because he

continued to protest his innocence of the murder, it was rejected. Last year, facing an extension of his sentence to 28 years, he was transferred to Lindholme and absconded, an action which had been open to him for nearly 12 years and which he had resisted.

Mr Timms, his former governor, said: "I was dumbstruck when I heard his release had been refused. His escape is regrettable but it is understandable. I have no doubt he was turned down because he insisted he was innocent. The rationale behind Home Office thinking is that because he refused to accept his guilt he was hiding something from himself and there was a risk his alleged criminality would resurface."

Life imprisonment is the mandatory sentence for murder but the trial judge makes a private recommendation on the length of sentence to be served and that is sent to the home secretary via the Lord Chief Justice. Only the home secretary

may order the release on licence of a life prisoner after considering the advice of the Parole Board on the risk and the Lord Chief Justice on the length of detention necessary to satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence.

From October, instead of the home secretary, an independent tribunal will decide when it will be right to release discretionary life sentence prisoners convicted of rape, attempted murder or terrorist offences. Campaigners want the responsibility for releasing murderers given to the tribunal.

While on the run, Payne contacted BBC Radio's *Face the Facts* programme and said: "I was told that unless I conceded guilt I would be kept inside. I will never give myself up because they are not playing fair by me." The Home Office, which had said that Payne was not regarded as dangerous when he absconded, declined to comment.

## Health chiefs switch care of the elderly to private nursing

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities are withdrawing from long-term care of the elderly and allowing private nursing homes to step into the gap in a form of "creeping privatisation" of the NHS, an independent health think tank says.

Some authorities, under increasing financial pressure, are transferring their long-term patients to private nursing homes and withdrawing financial support. Those who can afford it (or their relatives) pay their own way and those who cannot have their bills paid by social security.

The net effect is that the poor continue to have their care financed by the state, while contributions from the better-off help to subsidise other services. The transfer of

resources from rich to poor could therefore win the support of those who believe that a comprehensive NHS, free at the point of choice, can no longer be afforded.

Writing in *Health Care UK*, published by the King's Fund, the Institute of Health Economics, the editor, Anthony Harrison, the editor, says that people requiring continuous care because of ill-health are officially the responsibility of the NHS, as stated in the government's patient's charter. By ending that commitment and releasing the resources, more may be spent on other services available to all. "If you don't mind long-term health care becoming a means-tested service, then that's OK," he said. "But the consumer view is that it is the thin end of the wedge. If you want to preserve the citadel of an NHS free to all, then it is a bad thing."

A survey by Age Concern showed a clear divide between authorities which saw continuing care as an important part of NHS provision and those which considered that, because it cannot produce "positive" results, it should not be located within the NHS. It found that many people were unaware of their rights and had been persuaded to take on the burden of financing their own or their relatives' care when transferred from hospital.

"The point is that people don't know where they stand," Mr Harrison said. "There is a deliberate muddle in health authority thinking."

There is an inexplicit redefinition of the boundary of free NHS provision.

He said that uncertainty would increase after April 1993, when most social security funding for nursing and residential care is transferred to local authorities, under community care plans.

"The issues go to the very heart of any debate about how a tax-financed service such as the NHS should use the resources made available to it," he said. "Should it attempt to do everything for everyone, and run the risk of satisfying no one? Or should it settle for a circumscribed role within which it may be able to offer a service that does satisfy the demands placed upon it?"

Deniers' monopoly on providing dental treatment should be relaxed so that extra workers can be recruited to target areas where dental health is poor, a report by David Taylor in *Health Care UK* says. Almost 80 per cent of all tooth decay suffered by children occurs in the most vulnerable 20 per cent, the report says. Dental auxiliaries could play a cost-effective role in offering advice and education.

People of working age living in the North are two to three times more likely to have lost all their teeth than people living in the South. Yet spending on dental services is up to 20 per cent higher in the Thames regions than in Trent, the West Midlands and the North.



Pincer movement: Martin Attrill, a National Rivers Authority biologist, with two Chinese mitten crabs at National Power's West Thurrock station, Essex. Their discovery suggests the crab, originating from Far East paddy fields, is resident in the Thames. Its name derives from a black covering on its claws

## Prisoners toast 150 years of captivity

By KERRY GILL

MORE than 400 prisoners will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Perth prison this week, although officials of the Tayside jail more tactically describe the event as marking a "150-year link with the community". The programme includes a ten-mile charity run... within the walls.

The maximum security prison houses some of the most dangerous criminals, as well as people held for minor offences or awaiting trial. They will be taking part in a football match against Friarton prison, Tayside, and watching a game in the grounds between Dundee United and St Johnstone, a sports quiz and a show with the comedian Andy Cameron. A charity ball will be held in Perth - without the prisoners.

The celebrations indicate a marked change from the Eighties, when Scotland's penal system saw riots, hostage-taking and destruction. In October 1987, a prison officer at Perth was taken hostage, less than 48 hours after an officer seized at Peterhead prison, Grampian, was freed by an SAS assault team. Reforms which have been introduced include a reduction in overcrowding. Perth prison's population has been cut from more than 800 seven years ago to 447 yesterday.

The first convicts at Perth were shipped up the Tay or marched across country from Dundee in 1842 to experience Scotland's first purpose-built jail on the site where French prisoners of war had been kept until the end of the Napoleonic wars. The convicts exchanged damp, cold cells in various towns and villages for centrally heated cells on four floors, nourishing if plain food and a hospital for the feeble-minded.

Their menu consisted of oatmeal, potatoes, broth, bread and milk. Although porridge is still available each morning, yesterday's breakfast menu also included cornflakes, bacon and beans. Luncheon was steak pie or chicken curry and tea was lasagne or ham Kiev.

## Smacking 'leaves a legacy'

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION REPORTER

SMACKING and other forms of physical punishment should be outlawed and parents urged to adopt more constructive forms of discipline, an international conference of child welfare campaigners was told yesterday. Smacking is already illegal in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Austria, with Germany and Canada considering reform legislation, psychologists, paediatricians and lawyers from 22 countries were told. They were in London to test progress of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects children from "all forms of physical or mental violence".

Thomas Hammarberg, a member of the UN committee overseeing the convention, said that physical punishment often left an ugly legacy. "The psychological impact on children is much deeper than we once thought. There seems to be a social heritage: children who are beaten by their parents will beat their own children. Law-makers must break that vicious circle," Sweden, where smacking has been prohibited since 1979, should be a model to other governments, he said.

Penelope Leach, parent education co-ordinator of the End Physical Punishment of Children campaign, said that physical punishment as a form of discipline often led to outright abuse. "You cannot teach children to respect each other and solve problems by using personal violence on them," she said.

Parents  
L&T section, page 5

## Children left to abuse solvents

By RAY CLANCY

PARENTS and teachers are scared to confront the dangers of solvent abuse in case their children are branded as "problematic", a conference was told yesterday.

Doctors, social workers, health care workers and the police also lack knowledge of the issue, the biggest killer of children after road accidents. It is usually humped with drugs but it is a separate question needing different treatment and advice. Parents shied away from meetings organised by schools.

A survey, announced at the conference in London, organised by Re-Solv, the Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse, showed that only 19 per cent of professionals felt confident about helping and giving information and 11 per cent had no idea where to find advice.

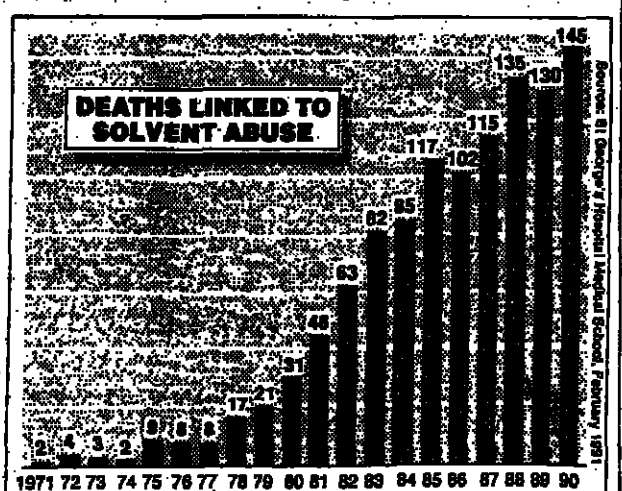
Many parents were aware that glue could be inhaled but had no idea how it was done. They felt it was something that would never happen in their family and suggested

that it was not even a recognisable issue. Children tended to be more aware of the dangers.

Margaret Dunn, of Research International which carried out the survey last December, said that in general parents did not want to admit that solvent abuse could affect their family. But when they found out how dangerous it could be they became concerned.

Barrie Liss, chairman of Re-Solv, said solvent deaths were increasing. "Three children a week are dying from solvent abuse. We owe it to their families and to future generations to make everyone aware of the dangers."

Government figures show that from only two deaths in 1971, there were 135 in 1988 and 145 in 1990 - the latest available. The Co-operative Wholesale Society, which sponsored the research, and the conference, said that it has also commissioned a survey to find out if labelling solvents with a danger warning would discourage abuse.



## Church and young drifting apart

A survey of young people shows a growing gulf between their moral standards and those of the church, Ruth Gledhill reports

A WIDENING gulf between young people and adult churchgoers has emerged in a survey which shows deep divisions on attitudes such as sexual ethics, drug use and Christian beliefs. Interviews with youth club members, youth workers and church members in the South-West suggest that local churches are failing to meet the spiritual needs of youngsters.

According to the 66,000 survey, carried out with Brunel University and sponsored by several Christian trusts, young people were "considerably more permissive" in their sexual activities and more accepting of homosexuals than their elders. Fewer than one in ten of those aged under 21 thought it important to remain a virgin until marriage, compared with more than eight out of ten church members.

Youth workers and adults drank alcohol more regularly than the youngsters, although the young smoked more cigarettes. Youth workers had the widest experience of drug use, with more than a third having used cannabis and some having used solvents, although most said that they no longer used drugs.

The survey's author, Arkie Bell, a field officer with the Scripture Union's Frontier Youth Trust, says that many of the youngsters had unorthodox Christian beliefs. A quarter believed that Jesus Christ was God and a third believed him to be alive today, although more than two thirds believed that he rose from the dead. More than half believed in God and most believed Jesus was his

son. Four fifths did not attend church regularly. One youngster who refused to go to church said: "It's a rough area. You get the mickie taken out of you."

Another said: "The idea you get is that the church is there and it's willing to help, as long as they don't have to actually dirty their hands with help."

Mr Bell says that the youngsters are spiritually aware but not active churchgoers. "There may be sparks of faith among these young people, but nowhere is it firmly rooted in a community called 'church'."

He says that youth work is not about gaining converts, but about social education and transmitting values. Neither the youth workers nor the young people saw the church as being the most important agent in setting moral standards. At one youth centre, near a difficult housing estate, the local clergy were often threatened by the centre's success, he says.

## Farmers force onion manager to resign

By DAVID YOUNG

FARMERS in Brittany have forced the French sales manager of a company in Britain to resign by threatening his family. The company is trying to sell Turkish onions in northern France.

Ludovic Faujour, aged 29, said that he decided to leave the transport firm Davex after a gang of French farmers tracked down his parents at their home.

"They telephoned my parents in France and threatened to cover their house in slurry and drive a tractor through it. I could not put them through this," he said.

M Faujour lives in Louth, Lincolnshire, and has worked for Davex, based at Welton le Wold, near Louth, for three years. The farmers are trying to stop Davex from taking three lorriesloads of onions to the French market.

A British lorry driver has been hijacked at gunpoint and his lorry and cargo of onions worth £32,000 have been burnt by the farmers. The company's packing house manager in France was shot at by farmers at the weekend.

Peter Davis, the managing director of Davex, said: "This is not a row over imports. This is terrorism, and there is nothing I can do about it."

"My sales manager has come to me today and resigned. The farmers tracked down his family in France and threatened them, scaring them all. I don't know what the farmers will do next."

"This whole business is costing us a fortune. All the time the condition of the onions is deteriorating. They have already lost 20 per cent of their value because of the delays."

"Now I am starting to lose staff as well. Nobody is doing anything to help me. I want full compensation from the French government. They should foot the bill, but nobody will talk to me."

Davex has tried to get four lorriesloads of onions from Turkey to its own packing house at Roscoff, near Brest in Brittany.

After the attack on the first lorry, a second British driver has travelled to Brest and is planning to make the trip past the gang of 200 French farmers to the packing house.

Two other drivers are in Strasbourg. They have both said that they are reluctant to make the journey.

## American visitor 'raped at museum'

An American doctor's wife on a tourist visit to London was raped outside the British Museum, a Central Criminal Court jury was told yesterday. The woman, aged 30, returned to Britain yesterday to give evidence against Giovanni Castagno, aged 32, of Gravesend, Kent, who pleaded not guilty to rape.

Roger Anelay, for the prosecution, said that Mr Castagno had followed the woman at night last August and threw her down on a bench by a statue of a lion at the museum in Bloomsbury, central London. The alleged victim said she tried to fight off her attacker but he held her by the neck and said: "I am Italian, I am a man, and I have needs."

The trial continues today.

## 'Bomb' fine

A Spanish businessman who told Heathrow customs officers that he was carrying a bomb was fined £600 by Uxbridge magistrates yesterday for making a false statement. Miguel Herberg-Hartung, aged 47, of no fixed address, missed his flight.

## Man cleared

Robin Connell, aged 51, a former chief inspector with Essex police, was cleared at Norwich crown court of obtaining property by deception and false accounting. Mr Connell, of Maldon, Essex, had denied making false expenses claims.

## Missing head

Birmingham street sweepers have been told to look out for a head from a £275,000 statue in the city centre. It is believed that the head, from a statue depicting people in art, science and literature, was knocked off by drunken youths and used as a football.

## Life sentence

James Anderson was jailed for life by the central Criminal Court for the murder of his stepmother at Cricklewood, northwest London. He mutilated her body with an electric carving knife.

## Ambridge GP

A country GP, John Wynn Jones, aged 41, of Montgomery, Powys, who contacted the makers of the BBC's *The Archers* radio serial to let them know what he thought of Ambridge events, has been appointed medical adviser to the programme.

## C&G MORTGAGE RATES DOWN AGAIN

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# THE TIMES ELECTION 92

TUESDAY MARCH 31 1992

## On other pages

Back to tax ..... 1  
Tax policy defended ..... 23  
Labour on sport ..... 34

### Conservative choice

## Major offers his vision of 'power to the people'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major last night presented electors with a stark contrast between a nightmarish Britain under Labour and a Conservative future in which everyone had power and choice.

Mr Major launched his fightback against lagging poll ratings and sharp internal criticism of the Tory election campaign by comparing how Labour and Conservative policies would affect ordinary families. In a speech marking a new attacking phase in the Tory campaign, Mr Major depicted a "nightmare on Kinnock Street" in which inflation was rising, tax was increasing, mortgage rates were rising and personal pensions were wrecked.

But in response to complaints that the Conservative effort has been too negative, the prime minister coupled his onslaught with a clear statement of Tory vision and aims for a fourth term of government. It was Mr Major's most hard-edged and passionate speech of the campaign and one designed to meet the criticism that the Tories have yet to set out a convincing case why they should be re-elected.

Addressing a rally at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, Mr Major said that Britain did not want socialism, did not need it and could not afford it because it spread envy, created division, nourished spite and made people feel uneasy about their achievements. In a clear signal that the Tories do not yet feel they are winning the battle over tax cuts, Mr Major

said that people should not feel guilty about being successful. They should not fall for the "socialist con trick".

He said the Conservative future he wanted was one in which inflation was heading towards zero, taxes were falling, more money was in people's pockets and growth was well under way. Mr Major said that in his future there would be a strong pound that held its value, there would be no threats from flying pickets, and there would be good state schools, run by head teachers, governors and parents. There would be a modern expanding health service and more say for the GP in how the best care should be given.

Many families would have bought the house in which they lived, helped by the extension of right-to-buy policies, he said, and shares from privatisation would grow in value once the threat of a Labour government had gone. Millions more people would be helped to get their own personal pensions.

Under Labour, he argued, there would be no control of inflation, and big tax increases instead of tax cuts.

"What price then the new car, the holiday, the mortgage?" Mr Major asked. Over time would no longer be worth it because of increases in national insurance, contributions, recovery would be delayed by tax hikes, and inward investment would be chased away and jobs destroyed. The pound would fall and devaluation would be on the agenda. There would be no self-managed schools, no

assisted places scheme, and grammar schools would be closed. Trust hospitals would be gone along with all the reforms that had cut waiting lists, he said.

House prices would plunge, Mr Major said, and mortgage rates would not be cut. There would be no work for small businesses, and shares in privatised companies would be re-nationalised or their value driven down. At the end of their lives, he said, people would face inheritance tax that would take the fruits of their work. There would be no big legacy for the children, just one last cheque for the state.

Mr Major acknowledged the impact of the recession on the property market. Though there were difficulties and sacrifices, it would in the end be worth it, he said.

Under the Conservative government people would keep and increase the wealth their hard work had earned. "Choice for the people. Ownership by the people. Power to the people — that's our aim. Opening the doors that socialism holds shut. I want every man and woman in Britain to enjoy the right to own and the power to choose."

Mr Major's tough-talking speech followed a day in which his more aggressive campaigning style had been in evidence. In Cheltenham, in support of John Taylor, the Tory candidate, he jumped on to a soapbox — as he had done in Luton on Saturday. He said that he would maintain the new approach through to the election.



Drumming up support: Jack Straw playing a steel drum yesterday at Thomas Tallis school, southwest London

## Education is proving a slow starter

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

IF EDUCATION is to be the big idea that sweeps either of the main parties to power, they have left it late to make their mark. Labour launched its education policy yesterday in the knowledge that the Liberal Democrats had made much of the running in the first half of the campaign.

John Major promised to place education at the top of his domestic agenda by addressing the subject before even launching the Conservative manifesto. Labour had already set out their stall before the election was called.

While Labour and the Conservatives have squabbled over campaign edicts and become bogged down on

health, the Liberal Democrats' concentration on education has coincided with a rise in their popularity. The proposal for a penny on income tax to fund a £2 billion education and training programme achieved the highest approval rating of the week, at 78 per cent.

The success of his party's apparently risky strategy enabled Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, to attack his opponents' reticence, as well as the absence of firm spending commitments.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, began to respond later in the day, announcing his party's recipe

for improving standards and attacking the record of Liberal Democrat education authorities. Today will see details, which were to have been announced last week, of Labour's £600 million spending commitments for a first year in government.

Mr Straw said that the main items would be to tackle the backlog of school repairs, to buy more books and equipment for state schools, reduce class sizes, and introduce a Reading Recovery Programme to prevent one in seven leaving school unable to read.

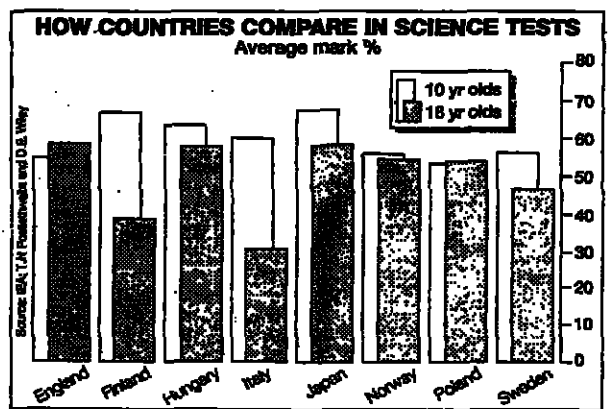
"At the heart of our programme is the relentless pursuit of higher standards. We will establish an Education Standards Commission — tough, independent of ministers — a body whose only task will be to monitor standards in every school, and to see that they are raised," he said.

The Conservatives have placed little emphasis on education since the publication of Mr Major's "Thirty-nine steps", perhaps because it is not seen as an area in which they can expect to win votes. Even Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has conceded that the public remains uneasy about such radical

reforms as opting out.

Some Conservatives would like to see a more vigorous campaign, however. Professor David Marsland, director of the Centre for Evaluation Research at the West London Institute, says in a pamphlet published this week by the Campaign for Real Education that Mr Straw was deceiving the electorate into believing that education was safe in socialist hands.

Recent studies show British pupils lagging behind many other countries in mathematics and science. Successive surveys have also suggested a decline in reading standards in primary schools, and the proportion of national wealth spent on education remains well below most advanced industrial nations. Yet the election is turning out to be far from the culmination of the education debate started by Lord Callaghan 25 years ago.



### Labour campaign

## Smith blames slump on prime minister

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RENEWED effort to pin blame for the recession squarely on John Major was mounted last night by Labour against the background of opinion polls showing that the public largely absolves him from responsibility.

John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said that in the 16 months Mr Major had been prime minister he had not presided over a single quarter of economic growth. His premiership had been marked by unrelenting economic decline, rising unemployment, record-breaking levels of home repossession and business failures.

Mr Major sought to shrug off responsibility by suggesting that Britain's economic problems were the result of the policies pursued by Margaret Thatcher's administration, he said. What he overlooked was that in the three years before he became prime minister, Mr Major held the two senior Treasury posts.

"Just blame the guilty men who went before. Not me Guv." Try the former Chancellor in 1989 who said that a recession would never hap-

pen. Or the former chief secretary who played second fiddle at the Treasury from 1987. They are the guilty Treasury men, the Treasury ministers who got it so badly wrong — all called John Major," Mr Smith told a rally in Lichfield, Staffordshire.

Mr Smith attacked Tory tax policy, claiming it had shifted the burden of taxation away from the rich to ordinary families and the poor. "The Conservatives' favourite policy of carrot and stick. All the carrots for the rich and all the sticks for the poor. ... Benefit cuts for the poor and tax cuts for the rich."

The tax burden on a family with two children on £13,000 a year had risen from 30.9 per cent in 1979 to 34.9 per cent, he said. The increase in value-added tax and higher national insurance contributions had outweighed cuts in income tax. "The proposals in Labour's Budget are unashamedly biased in favour of wealth creation and wealth creators, because under Labour we will all be wealth creators, building a fairer and stronger Britain."

## Levitating candidate rises above the fray

I flew into Shetland on a plane packed with wide-eyed people in fur-trimmed anoraks, displaying a variety of mild personality disorders. Liberal canvassers, surely? No. "Twitters". A rare sighting of a pine grosbeak had been reported. Twitters were bringing their cameras and their custom to Lerwick. Were the grosbeak to stand in this election, the bird would find much support among the islanders.

In a pale light and a cold breeze, the sea silver, the sand white and the treeless hills a pastel mixture, these islands do not feel wild, but gentle. People are rather open. "It doesn't seem very Scottish," I said to the SNP agent. "Where are the kilts?"

"Kilts?" he said. "Have you experienced the force 12 gale? Anything which grows above 4ft gets blown down. That explains the ponies. Natural selection."

High seas have forced the Liberal Democrat, James Wallace, to cancel his canvassing trip to two of the remotest islands. He takes a bicycle with him. Jim Wallace has been MP for Orkney and Shetland since Joe Grimmond stood down. Appointed Liberal chief whip, his hair turned from grey to white. A quiet man but



### CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

soon (if there is a hung parliament) to become an important one, all parties privately expect him to win here. He and his wife flew in with their personal belongings in plastic bags, their joint baggage allowance given over to 16,000 election addresses. With some 32,000 voters, the constituency has one of the smallest electorates in Britain, but they are scattered over dozens of islands.

"There are 28 voters on Foula," an elderly lady stuffing election addresses into envelopes in the office of Paul McCormick, the Tory candidate, told me, "and 15 on Papa. Doctor McCormick cannot possibly visit them all in time." I glance at the photo portrait of McCormick who has a fearsome moustache.

"Your candidate looks like a wolf," I remark amiably.

"Well the Labour man has a beard, and that's worse," she replies, "and anyway Mr Kinnock is almost completely bald." The loyalty of elderly

Tory lady volunteers is a wonderful thing: a fixed point in a changing world. Their candidate is a barrister from Hampshire claiming "law and order" as a special interest — on an island where people do not lock their cars and the last murder was half a century ago. But will these ladies hear ill of him? Never!

In the fishing village of Scalloway, where Frances McKie, the SNP candidate, was storming a neat council estate, charmingly bullying its residents into displaying her big yellow and black poster. "Here, Matthew," she said to me, "put one of my stickers on. It'll make you less conspicuous on the island." An attractive and passionate candidate, her doorstep message somewhat simplifies the debate about independence. "Will you vote for Scotland this time? If Scotland's got a veto, then you can just put a stop to whatever it is the Europeans are trying to do to you." It was

going down well in Scalloway. "Well it would," the Liberal agent told me, "for your benefit she chose a street where she'd get a good reception. Her agent was honest enough to admit that to me." "And you," I thought, "have been rat enough to pass it on." He showed me a leaflet with 'ten reasons' not to vote SNP. The Tories had about eight reasons.

John Aberdeen, the Labour hopeful, offers (I think) around 12. An impressive candidate, Aberdeen is, like the Liberal Democrats and the SNP, involved in a rather Jesuitical tangle about Orkney and Shetland's place in any new constitutional arrangement. Orkney and Shetland are a little cool about each other, but much cooler about Edinburgh. England is the devil they know.

"Your candidate is English," I protest to the Tory ladies. "So what?" they reply. "The other candidates are Scots, but people here are tolerant."

Only the natural Law Party candidate, who teaches transcendental meditation, in Orkney, is above such squabbles. She has probably transcended the need to make physical appearances, but if not, then island-hopping should be easy: according to Shetland rumour, she can levitate.

### POLLWATCH by Ivor Crewe

## What the don't knows really do

The Conservatives are reported to be hoping to snatch a last-minute victory by appealing to the "don't knows", whom they believe number up to 10 million. The precise number is impossible to say.

In last week's Mori/Times poll, 28 per cent — about nine million voters — said they were undecided and the most recent Mori/Sunday Times poll, using a different definition, came up with the identical proportion. After being asked which party they were "most inclined" to support, the don't knows in the Mori/Times poll dropped to 7 per cent. Bob Worcester, Mori's chairman, has argued that as most "don't knows" are "won't voters", and the official abstention rate is 25 per cent, the real floating vote might be tiny.

The truth lies in between these figures. Allowing for the inaccuracy of the register, the true proportion not voting is normally about 15 per cent and, being uninterested in politics, they tend to be under-represented in opinion polls. The "don't knows" in the polls may be less likely to vote than the do-knows, but about half will vote none the less. At least some of the do-knows will change parties between now and election day.

The "don't knows" comprise two different groups. The first are apathetic and uninformed "don't cares", of whom only a minority will turn out on election day, haphazardly splitting their vote between the three parties.

Those in the second group are closer to John Stuart Mill's ideal of the serious citizen. The majority will vote and decide on the basis of the remaining campaign. William Miller's study of the 1987 campaign, *How Britain Votes*, showed that the majority of such voters did know that they were anti-Labour or anti-Conservative. For most the choice was between Tory and the centre or between Labour and the centre.

The centre benefits disproportionately from both groups. In the past three elections voters who decided only in the final stage of the campaign voted in above average numbers for the Liberals and SDP.

The don't knows have so far split 4 to 3 in favour of Labour, according to the Mori/Sunday Times poll. But the small print of the polls suggests that the remaining "don't knows" are likely to plump for the Conservatives (or Liberal Democrats) rather than Labour. Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.

Essex man will vote for a Conservative government? — Mrs Thatcher in Maldon

We shall win the election outright? — Neil Kinnock

A Liberal Democrat vote is a positive vote — a vote not for one side or the other of the old political parties but a vote for a new future? — Paddy Ashdown

I do not have a shred of doubt that between now and April 9 we will persuade people of our positive plans? — John Major

Thirteen years ago the Conservatives promised they would raise education standards. Thirteen years on they have failed? — Jack Straw, Labour education spokesman

Mr Kinnock makes the gaffes, and then Mr Smith comes along and tries to clear them? — Norman Tebbit

Fare-hiking, cost-cutting, congestion-creating, life-threatening, traffic-fuming, steam-powered? — John Prescott on Tory transport policy

When they're kicking out Big Brother everywhere else we're not going to let little brother come creeping back here? — John Major giving a warning against electing Labour

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Speaker's corner: John Major campaigning atop his soapbox in Cheltenham yesterday

#### Tory campaign trail

### Soapbox tirade by Major boosts hope of black candidate

By PHILIP WEBSTER

A TRANSFORMED John Major took to his soapbox yesterday to call on the voters of Cheltenham to elect John Taylor as the first black Conservative MP.

The prime minister used a loudspeaker in the centre of the spa town to trumpet a ringing endorsement to the barrister who became Tory candidate after a bitter racism dispute in his local party. Mr Taylor had a magnificent future, Mr Major said. "Send him to Westminster with the biggest possible majority."

The soapbox, in reality a Conservative Central Office packing case, has become an essential prop on the Major battle bus. Responding to criticism that his campaign has been too tame, and fired up by his encounter with hecklers when the soapbox made its first appearance in Luton on Saturday, Mr Major has decided to adopt a more rumbustious style for the last nine days.

Mr Major said later that he would continue to use his oratory style for the rest of the election campaign, in spite of security worries. He said: "People say that you cannot do it these days. It is fashionable to say, for security and other reasons, that you cannot get up on a soapbox. I think you have to and I am going to do it."

Gentle Cheltenham, however, did not seem the most promising of venues for the new combative approach. But a few Liberal Democrats, who are odds-on favourites with the bookmakers to take the seat from the Tories, were all that Mr Major needed in a lively performance that enthused his sides.

The election, he shouted, was not about trivia and personalities but about the future of the country. April 9 was a clear-cut choice between two wholly different visions.

His allegation that Labour's spending plans would cost £1,250 for every taxpayer brought a helpful cry of "rubbish" from a lone Labour backer. It was enough. Four hundred Tory loyalists roared as he replied: "They are rubbish pledges. I can tell you that. The taxes would be real, just as they

1987 result: C G Irving (C) 31,371 (50.2%); R G Holme (Lib/All) 26,475 (42.3%); M Luker (Lab) 4,701 (7.5%). Conservative majority: 4,896.

were under the last Labour government."

When the rest of the world was ditching socialism, why should the cradle of democracy go back to it? he said. Could anyone name two prominent Liberals? There was a prize if you could tell him three. He did not want anything to do with "fancy theories" about education.

For once his rhetoric almost got out of hand: "They told me in London it would be raining. The sun is out in Cheltenham. On April 9, the sun will be out for the Conservative party right across the country."

Later Mr Major was asked about the lack of black candidates in the Tory party. He said: "Candidates are chosen in the Conservative party on the basis of their ability, not whether they are black or white." He added: "I want people from every background representing the Conservative party. That is what we have got. Mr Taylor is a first-class candidate and will be a first-class MP."

Mr Taylor, asked whether he had suffered racial abuse, said: "People realise I am here to do a job. I am not really concerned about that. I am here to keep my eye on the ball. If you do not know your target in life you will not hit it. My target is to keep Cheltenham Conservative."

The rest of Mr Major's day was of mixed fortunes. His BAe 146 jet bounced twice, and its left side tilted sharply towards the ground, after a shuddering landing at Gloucestershire airport. It was the second such incident in a week. Mr Major said that it was "exhilarating", an opinion shared by few others on the aircraft. Later, he received his first kiss of the campaign from Betty Critchlow, aged 69, who grabbed him as he went into a bank.

#### MPs from ethnic minorities

## Labour ahead for vital votes

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THERE are six fewer black and Asian candidates representing the main political parties than at the last election, although there are likely to be more MPs from the ethnic minority communities when the results are declared.

Most of them will be Labour MPs. However, among those hoping to be the first black or Asian Tory MP since Manchester's Bhowmick won Bethnal Green in 1995 are John Taylor, the black barrister fighting Cheltenham, and Nijr Deva, the Sri Lankan-born businessman (Brentford and Islington).

The first Labour ethnic minority MP in the last parliament expected to be returned to Westminster are Diane Abbott in Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Paul Boateng (Brent South), Bernie Grant (Tottenham), Ashok Kumar (Langbaurgh), and Keith Vaz (Leicester East). They are likely to be joined by Piana Khambra in Belling South, where Labour had a majority of more than 7,000 in 1987.

Between 1974 and 1987 there was an increase in main party ethnic minority candi-

dates to 29 but this figure has fallen to 23 in 1992, due partly to the demise of the SDP, which fielded seven candidates at the last general election.

While the number of Labour ethnic minority candidates has fallen from 14 to nine and Tories risen from six to eight, more black and Asian voters will vote Labour. Kaushika Amin, of the Runnymede Trust, said: "The vast majority of the ethnic minority vote will go to Labour but there are signs that this vote is no longer quite so solidly for Labour."

A survey carried out last year by NOP among 542 Afro-Caribbean people found that 58 per cent would support Labour, 9 per cent Conservatives and 3 per cent Liberal Democrats. But although support for the Tories was strongest among those aged 35 to 54 and in the higher social classes where it was 12 per cent, the black vote among all groups strongly backed Labour.

Among south Asian people the survey still found the majority supported Labour in all age and socio-economic

groups but there were signs that Conservative efforts to woo the Asian communities had proved partly successful. The NOP survey among 479 south Asian people showed 60 per cent support for Labour, 14 per cent Conservative and 3 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. But support for the Tories was 21 per cent among those over 55 and 18 per cent among those from the ABC2 class.

The survey, conducted by NOP for *The Independent on Sunday* in association with the Runnymede Trust, found that among those certain to vote, support for Labour among Afro-Caribbeans was 58 per cent, Conservative 8 per cent, and Liberal Democrats 3 per cent while among the south Asians 55 per cent backed Labour, 12 per cent Conservative and 3 per cent Liberal Democrats.

Labour retains strong support among south Asians but there were indications that the Tories had made some advances in persuading people to shift their allegiances.

The NOP survey, carried out in June last year, found that people of Indian origin

were more likely to vote Conservative than those of Pakistani origin. It showed that 19 per cent of people of Indian origin would vote Conservative compared with 8 per cent of Pakistanis and 11 per cent of Bangladeshis.

Although the survey found that the vast majority of all people said they would vote for the party of their choice, regardless of the ethnic origin of the candidate, there was some polling evidence that black and Asian candidates underperformed. Mori found that in the last general election 22 of the black and Asian candidates performed less well than the uniform national swing. That finding might explain why the parties are nervous at increasing the number of candidates from the ethnic minorities.

According to another Mori poll conducted for *The Irish Times* earlier this month, 54 per cent of the Irish in Britain would back Labour, 25 per cent the Tories, 12 per cent Liberal Democrats and others 9 per cent. Mori had identified people who said their parents or grandparents had been born in Ireland.

## Driver gets to the heart of race issue

An outsider researching politics in Cheltenham would do well to ignore traditional sources and consult a bookie or a taxi driver.

The taxi driver from the station marked my card on the issue of John Taylor's bid to remain Cheltenham for the Conservatives: "They won't vote for him because he's black." The bookies, meanwhile, make the Liberal Democrats odds-on favourites to take the seat. Mr Taylor is at 11-8 and Pam Tatlow, the Labour candidate, at 50-1.

Miss Tatlow appears to have little chance. In 1987, Labour polled only 7.5 per cent of the vote. She maintains that things are changing, but Labour headquarters do not appear to be expecting an upset.

Miss Tatlow has publicly backed Tory accusations that Nigel Jones, the Liberal Democrat candidate, is running a racist campaign. His electoral team hotly denies this. "Race is not an issue in this campaign and we're not going to make it one," Andy Pennington, the Liberal Democrat agent, said. But someone has made it

Nobody wants to be quoted, but race remains the talking point in Cheltenham. Peter Victor writes

an issue. A racist caricature of Mr Taylor is doing the rounds and has been denounced by the three main parties. No one in the street will actually support the "repel the invader" rhetoric espoused by the late Bill Galbraith, a former Tory party member; instead they couch their objections in terms of favouring a local man, such as Mr Jones. The common denominator is that no one wants to be quoted.

The Tories, on the face of it, remain unperturbed by the views of bookies and taxi drivers. They attack the Liberal Democrats' campaign as either hypocrisy or covert racism. "Their literature makes a lot of the fact that Jones is local yet his ex-wife, the deputy mayor, has abandoned Cheltenham to fight the seat in Bromsgrove," a spokesman said. "We are fighting to win."

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Upfront message: members of the Conservative Central Office design team in Smith Square, central London, wearing T-shirts and caps which they designed for the election campaign

### Conservative tax policy

## Major offers hope of cut every year

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

JOHN Major held out the prospect yesterday of annual tax cuts under a Conservative government as the Tories moved towards their target of a 20p in the pound standard rate.

He said that the new 20p band, introduced in the Budget, on the first £2,000 of taxable income was just a beginning. "That is the way we mean to go on — taking more and more taxpayers out of 25p tax by widening the band. This way we can make progress, year by year, towards a 20p basic rate for all," Mr Major told a West-

minster news conference. "I think it is probable we can do that year on year. I cannot give a categorical promise that we will be able to do it each and every year." But the banding change had opened the possibility of making tax reductions when smaller sums of money were available for them than would be needed to fund a full 1p cut in the basic rate of income tax. A Tory government would want to spend some of the fruits of growth to finance extra public spending, but it would ensure that individuals enjoyed the growth too.

The prime minister denied reports that the economy was in such dire straits that any government after the election would have to cut public spending. He said that he had "absolutely no expectation whatsoever" that a Tory government would have to trim the public spending plans already set out. "If we were going to have to cut public expenditure, we would have done it before. I do not believe it is an economically sensible thing to do."

The Tories, encouraged by opinion polls showing that two thirds of the electorate expect their taxes to rise under Labour, and that 24 per cent of C2s expect them to be "much higher", have renewed their assault on John Smith's shadow budget and on Labour's manifesto spending plans in the belief that they can turn the election in the final week.

Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, accused Labour of having promised the earth in its manifesto without counting the cost. He repeated his claim that Labour's spending pledges came to £38 billion — the equivalent of £1,250 a year extra for each of Britain's 25 million taxpayers, or a 12.5p increase in the basic rate of tax.

"This is a frightening picture," he said. "The amount of tax paid by people on the basic rate would go up by between a third and a half. Those who find the idea of a 37.5p basic rate of income tax incredible should remember that we had a 35p rate under Labour in the Seventies."

"They should also remember that this tax increase, like the £38 billion of spending, would build up over the lifetime of a parliament. The £7 billion tax increases already planned for year one would be just the first instalment of Labour's five-year plan — a plan for five years' hard labour."

Later, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said that Labour's "tax bombshell" would hit every family in the land. All parties had now learnt to argue from concrete examples, rather than abstract categories, he said. A machine operator earning about £10,000 a year, for example, would pay an extra £796 in tax under Labour; a car assembly worker, earning about £12,000 a year, would pay £1,046 more; an electrician on about £14,000 would pay £1,296; and a skilled engineer on £20,000 would pay £2,046 extra.

A STUDY by the chief economic adviser to the CBI has concluded that the advent of a Labour government would lead to an increase of more than 400,000 in unemployment, a reduction in growth by 0.5 per cent a year and a 1.7 per cent increase in inflation.

Douglas McWilliams, who is also the chief executive of London Economics (MES), says interest rates would be pushed up by 2.5 per cent above what would otherwise have occurred and the sterling exchange rate would be devalued by 7 per cent. The conclusions are in a paper sent by Mr McWilliams to private clients of London Economics (MES) and are based on a simulation exercise using a macroeconomic model.

Mr McWilliams said yesterday that the findings made the possibility of a Labour government an alarming prospect for industry. Potential investors were likely to put their projects on hold for at least six months if Labour were elected.

The study says that difficulties would be caused largely by the impact on wage inflation of any Labour attempt to impose a minimum wage at 50 per cent of male median earnings and by the promised attempt to restore public sector pay differentials.

Mr McWilliams argues that the consequences of Labour's policies would leave Britain vulnerable to swings in confidence in foreign exchange markets and the United Kingdom would be unable to enter a single European currency. Since no government would be likely to persevere with policies producing such effects, a second simulation therefore allows for a U-turn after a foreign exchange crisis.

That would again leave the economy in a worse state after four to five years, with a mini-recession in 1994-5 followed by a slight recovery. But unemployment in 1996 would still be 426,000 higher than in the base scenario.

### Lib Dems

## Stability 'is key to recovery'

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE boom and bust economic mismanagement under the Tories and Labour in the past 40 years must be replaced by long-term policies underpinned by a single European currency and an independent central bank, Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, said yesterday. He argued that industry needed a stable economic framework to create the confidence to invest and an end to political manipulation of interest rates.

A recovery programme was incomplete unless accompanied by a policy to prevent inflation, he said at a London press conference. "Liberal Democrat support for an independent central bank will ensure that our recovery package is sustainable and does not simply push up prices."

He said that electoral reform was needed to prevent the renationalisation of industries. Alex Carlile, the party's trade and industry spokesman, said that figures showing that 1,200 companies were folding every week destroyed the Conservatives' claim to be the party of business. "It is devastating to see all the hard work and enterprise of small businesses and self-employed people going to waste — and it is Britain that is the loser," he said.

The Liberal Democrats promised a sustainable growing economy with low inflation and stable interest rates; the rebuilding of crumbling schools, hospitals, railways and homes; new jobs, education and training to produce a skilled and flexible workforce; and less bureaucracy for businesses.

Most important, Mr Carlile said, was to end the self-inflicted recession that was destroying the hopes of so many. One of the party's key pledges was to freeze the uniform business rate at 1991-2 levels and legislation to charge interest on late payers.

Paddy Ashdown, the party leader, said Labour's silence on education and training for economic success had been a great disappointment to millions of people.

Figures are for a single earner, married with two children, a personal allowance, mortgage allowance, mortgage relief and child benefit for two children.

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### Labour tax pledges

## Smith seeks to win over suspicious high earners

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

FAMILIES earning as much as £43,500 a year would be better off under Labour's tax and benefit proposals, party leaders said yesterday as they sought to blunt a renewed Tory offensive against John Smith's shadow budget.

After the decision to tax those earning over £40,000 at 50 per cent, and to lift the £21,060 ceiling on 9 per cent national insurance contributions, the Opposition remains nervous about the impact of its proposals on the middle classes in marginal seats in London and the South-East, whose votes will be critical to the election result. To try to reassure them, Margaret Beckett, the shadow Treasury secretary, pointed to instances of high earners who would gain under Labour.

Her message was reinforced by Mr Smith who cited a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies which concluded that eight out of ten families would be better off under his budget. In opinion polls, however, nearly two in three people say they believe their taxes would be higher under Labour.

Of the ten "typical" families cited by Mrs Beckett, only one — a £40,000-a-year national newspaper journalist living with a £26,000-a-year public relations executive — would be significantly worse off under a Labour government, by about £2,000 a year. For the most part, the cases did not include people earning above the £21,060 trigger for the new 9 per cent national insurance levy.

"Take the example of an architect married to a personnel manager, a family that some might think of as being relatively well off. He earns £22,500, she earns £21,000 and they have two children. They live in Hampstead and have suffered particularly as the result of high mortgage rates on their large mortgage," Mrs Beckett told a news conference in London.

"Under Labour, they gain £53.97 a year in lower national insurance contributions and income tax and they receive an extra £127.40 in child benefit. So in total, they would be £181.37 better off. What is more, our fair rates would save them £613 com-

Region (town)	Occupations/family	Annual income	Annual gain
South West (Bristol)	Hairstresser, one child	£6,188	£98.01
South East (Brighton)	Retired couple	£8,500	£416.00
E Midlands (Derby)	NHS porter, part-time cleaner, two children	£9,411	£265.97
North (Newcastle)	Part-time teacher, civil service EO, one child	£19,220	£199.17
North West (Salford)	Police constable, housewife, two children	£16,749	£209.81
Yorkshire/Humb (Hull)	Firestation officer, housewife	£20,844	£82.41
W Midlands (Birmingham)	Engineer, staff nurse, grandmother, one child	£37,030	£428.21
London (Hampstead)	Personnel manager, architect, two children	£43,500	£181.37
E Anglia (Cambridge)	Bank manager, senior secretary, two children	£38,840	£0.44
South East (Tonbridge)	Journalist, PR executive	£56,000	£2,115

pared to their council tax bill."

Her second example was a £21,404-a-year engineer in a West Midlands car plant married to a staff nurse on £12,810. They had a daughter at school and grandmother living with them on a basic state pension of £2,816.

"Under Labour they gain £152.61 in national insurance contributions and income tax, £15.60 in child benefit and £260 in higher pension. They also gain £17 per year from fair rates."

These are just some of the sorts of families who make up the 90 per cent of families better off or no worse off as a result of Labour's budget."

As the Tories argued that 11 million of the "gainers" in Labour's budget would see no more than 34p a week extra, Mr Smith defended higher taxes on the better off. His proposals would reverse only a "modest amount" of the tax

windfall that the top 10 per cent had enjoyed over the past 13 years. He again cited a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, which said that the poorest 10 per cent of households had lost in real terms an average of £52 a year because of Tory tax and benefit policies. The top 10 per cent had gained £4,524 a year on average.

Mr Smith rejected suggestions that the parlous state of the public finances and the £28 billion borrowing requirement this year would throw his calculations into disarray. His proposed increases of £1 billion in health service spending and £600 million on education would have been greater had the position been sounder.

"The next government will inherit the economy in difficulty. That is a startling testimony to how our affairs have been handled over the last 13 years, bearing in mind the advantages of North Sea oil. The budget I produced is modest and takes account of our economic difficulties."

Mr Smith declined to give a cast-iron pledge that he would not reduce public spending after opening the Treasury books. "I certainly don't want to make any cuts in public spending, I am going on the assumption that the published figures are correct. We do not have a happy economic situation, whatever the figures are shown to be, and the most important thing is to get the economy back on track."

Leading article, page 15  
Christian vote, page 14

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

Beckett: reassuring middle class voters

### Voting reform

## Ashdown hints at leeway on timing

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

PADDY Ashdown might be prepared to consider taking longer than previously indicated over reform of Westminster's voting system in exchange for supporting a minority Tory or Labour government.

As demands grew for the Liberal Democrats to give precise details of their terms, the leadership was determined not to become bogged down in debating the minutiae of different PR systems and the timing for change in the remaining nine days of the campaign. The details will not be worked out until the arithmetic of voting is clear.

As the polls continued to reflect that no party will win an outright majority, Mr Ashdown yesterday repeated his key pre-condition in a hung parliament of a commitment to legislation for proportional representation in a first Queen's speech. That remained "essential", he told a press conference.

But senior party sources disclosed that such a commitment could take the form of an enabling bill to legislate for the principle of reform of Westminster's voting system, while not finalising the details. That would be followed by reform of the boundaries and, possibly, further legislation on the voting process within a five-year parliament. The sticking point would be a "testimony of good faith" to take action within that time.

Sir David Steel, the former party leader, and Charles Kennedy, the president, put more emphasis on changing the electoral system within the first parliament. Mr Kennedy said: "We completely agree that this general election should be the last one fought on the first past the post system."

Mr Ashdown has become less assertive about the timing of the reforms and talked of the need for "an element of trust" on a commitment to PR between the parties in a coalition government. The detail will depend on the proportions within any coalition. If, for instance, the winning party had only 38 per cent of the votes and the Liberal Democrats had 24 per cent, Mr Ashdown's negotiating hand would be far stronger than in, say, a 42/17 per cent split.

As he toured marginal seats in Cheshire and Lancashire, including Sir Cyril Smith's old seat of Rochdale, Mr Ashdown warned the other parties that a minority government with less than 40 per cent of the votes which tried to go it alone would be on "very, very flimsy ground."

He added: "Whatever the two parties say, it seems to me to be practically inconceivable for somebody to seek to govern the country with 37 or 38 per cent of the vote. That would be a major question of legitimacy." Such a test in rejecting the voters' judgment would be undemocratic.

Asked about the Conservatives' strategy of saying that a vote for the Liberal Democrats would put Neil Kinnock in Downing Street, he said: "That is a sign of a Conservative party in terminal panic."

He added: "It is a campaigning tactic the Conservatives will adopt, but I do not think it will fool many people." The polls showed that the Liberal Democrats were taking more votes from Labour than from the Tories.

In a speech in Rochdale last night Mr Ashdown told a rally not to underestimate what his party could achieve. "It is the Liberal Democrats who can make the difference in this election," he said.

### SNP claims oil and gas

By Kerry Gill

MORE than 90 per cent of the oil and gas fields within the central and northern North Sea would fall into Scottish waters, leaving the southern gas fields for the English after independence, Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said yesterday, launching his party's green paper on oil and gas taxation policies.

After the split from the rest of the United Kingdom a nationalist government would honour existing rights and obligations, he said. Oil companies would keep licences held at present. The SNP would seek to negotiate an oil treaty with Westminster. On the international legal principle of equidistance, Scotland would get almost all the oil and gas.

"Rather than squandering

oil revenues like Westminster, an SNP government will set up a Scottish oil fund to channel revenues into investment, infrastructure, research and development providing long-term foundations for future success and prosperity," Mr Salmond said in Aberdeen. He also promised "basically stable" taxation.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, sought to remedy not being a "well kept" face in Scotland by going on a whistle stop tour during which he extolled the Conservatives' economic record over the past 13 years and said that Labour would hand the country back to socialism and the unions.

A Scots tomorrow, L&T section, page 1

### MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

## Viewers' actions speak louder than words

Millions of television viewers and newspaper readers complain that there is too much coverage of the election — but millions more than ever watch *Match of the Day*, are still switching on to television and reading newspapers. One in three electors say they have spent more than an hour a day watching election news on television and more than 30 minutes reading election coverage in the newspapers, according to Mori polls last week. Voters seem to be much less bored than editors and politicians fear. Eight in ten readers of *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*, for instance, say they are interested in the campaign — compared with just over half the readers of the tabloids.

On an average election day, ac-

cording to Mori, at least one elector in four has also listened to election news on the radio and watched a party election broadcast — while 43 per cent say they are interested in politicians' speeches and 40 per cent in opinion polls.

The polls deliver conflicting verdicts when voters are asked if there is too much election news and whether it is useful. According to Mori, 68 per cent of viewers and 56 per cent of newspaper readers think there is too much coverage. But 80 per cent of viewers and 58 per cent of readers say the coverage is useful, with 37 per cent finding quality papers very useful compared with 25 per cent for the tabloids.

Voters become more alienated the longer the election continues, however, which is why editors, par-

ticularly of the tabloids, have to make fine judgments about using their front pages for election news.

So far the most partisan national newspapers have been the *Daily Express* for the Tories. According to the Mori/Sunday Times panel, 34 per cent of newspaper readers think there is much too much election reporting. Yet 45 per cent of *Daily* and *Sunday Express* readers think there is too much, the highest proportion of alienated readers apart from *The Sun*, the *News of the World* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Similarly a poll for the BBC by the broadcasting research department last week showed that the number of viewers saying there was far too much about the election had

risen threefold in the past three weeks. Both the BBC and Mori polls showed that, although most viewers believe the BBC is unbiased, it is still seen as more biased towards the Tories than ITN, particularly in Scotland and by Labour supporters — but, according to Mori, the BBC scores highly for usefulness among the youngest and Labour voters.

The BBC, according to its own poll, beats ITN for accuracy, professionalism and balance, but ITN is considered less boring. What the BBC really wanted to hear, however, was that 54 per cent of viewers believed that news programmes should explain and analyse events — although viewers switch off in hundreds of thousands when all the explanation and analysis starts.



# Irresistible rise of the career politician brings voter fatigue in its wake



Mandelson: exception to the Labour rule

Whichever party wins the election, career politicians will gain. Most analysis of candidates fighting the election has focused on their social and educational backgrounds — the decline of Etonians and manual workers and rise of the white-collar middle classes. But that misses the point. Most of the candidates in winnable seats are career politicians. They are full-time councillors, trade union or party officials, former special advisers and consultants. Entering parliament is a further stage in a political career that started at or before university. Many have never had a "real" career independent of politics. They have taken jobs that give them time to advance their ambitions, initially as councillors and then as candidates nursing seats.

This is making the Commons more than ever a closed

## RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

shop of a narrow group who commit themselves to politics at an early age. By contrast, it is difficult for anyone who has had a successful career in business or the professions suddenly to change direction in his or her forties, to seek and obtain a candidature for a winnable seat, enter the Commons and become a minister. The long apprenticeship normally starts in the twenties. That has always been true of the top rank. Gladstone and Disraeli may have had diverse interests, but their prime concern was always politics and the House of Commons.

The difference now is that career politicians are the rule rather than the exception. For

instance, of the candidates chosen to replace the 25 Labour MPs not standing again or deselected, ten are full-time union officials, ten have been local councillors and four are former MPs or members of the European parliament.

Of the 95 candidates in target seats, 60 have been councillors, seven are party officials or consultants, although only six are officials of unions (which prefer to put their people into safe seats). On the Tory side, of the 58 candidates picked to replace retiring MPs, 14 are political advisers or consultants, ten are former MPs or MEPs and another 11 are councillors.

It has been fashionable to talk of a convergence between the parties in the type of people who become MPs, but that is misleading. Admittedly, if you look through the

Times Guides for the first few parliaments after the war, clear differences are obvious. On the Tory side, business-

men, farmers and professional men, many of whom had a "good war" with a good number of MCs and DSOs, predominated, and there were still a few aristocrats. On the Labour side, there were still many manual workers and union officials, as well as a few metropolitan lawyers, journalists and academics, such as Dalton, Gaitskill, Crosland, and Jay.

But now, most of the Tory grandees and Labour manual workers have gone. Everyone looks middle class, but they are different types of middle class. The Labour middle class is predominantly public sector, teachers, administrators and councillors; even the full-time union officials tend to be research officers rather than

from the shopfloor. By contrast, most of the Tory middle class is private sector, lawyers, directors of small companies and consultants.

The other main difference is residence. The departure of many of the London-based professionals on the Labour side, such as Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers and John Horgan (now standing as a Tory in Orpington), while the changes in the party's selection procedures during the Eighties favoured local candidates known to the widened local electorate. Several prominent local government leaders have been picked for safe Labour seats and the union's big vote has favoured their candidates. It is now much more difficult for a London-based Oxbridge professional to be picked for a safe

Labour seat: the Oxford educated Peter Mandelson is an exception in Harlepool. Only four of the 25 candidates replacing MPs are from Oxbridge and only 11 in 95 target seats.

On the Tory side, the big Tory gains from 1979 to 1987, and the upheaval after the big changes to constituency boundaries in 1983, did bring in many local non-Oxbridge candidates with no London links. But many of the candidates picked this time are metropolitan professionals.

A common feature is that, whether local or based in London, many are career politicians. Their rise has changed the Commons. In the eighteenth century pre-reform Commons, an MP represented a community or interest, whether a local patron or a borough. After the extensions

of the franchise in 1867 and 1884-5, the parties increasingly represented class interests: the Tory parliamentary party in the Twenties and Thirties included many leading businessmen, while many top union officials were Labour MPs.

But now businessmen remain in industry and union officials stay in their unions, leaving politics to those who make it their career. Politicians are now desperate to hold on to their jobs and their seats because that is their life. Consequently, the gap has widened between the goals and priorities of career politicians and voters. That in turn is one reason for the widespread disenchantment in the country with the present election campaign.

Peter Riddell

## Constituency profile

# Legacy of hard left leaves Chalker fighting close battle

BY RONALD FAUX

1987 result: L Chalker (C) (below) 22,791 (42.5%); L Duffy (Lab) 22,512 (41.9%); J K Richardson (SDP/All) 8,363 (15.6%). Conservative majority: 279



excluded. She says: "There was a small amount of discontent and some Labour supporters took their ball home, but they are not a factor. Left and right labels are meaningless and I am being given great support by local party workers." Among them is Mr Duffy himself, a leader and local hero of the sit-in at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead.

Achieving a high-turn out will be the most likely path to a Labour victory. Getting all its supporters to the polling station from the Leasowe council estate, for example, could mean a couple of thousand Labour votes but, historically, Labour voters have been more reluctant to vote than Mrs Chalker's supporters, whose number has varied little over the years.

Wallasey lies on the tip of the Wirral peninsula, a maze of tightly packed houses that makes it a dormitory town, holiday resort and retirement centre rolled into one, although local issues reach beyond the constituency into Merseyside and across the Mersey to Liverpool.

Mrs Chalker is a popular MP, although Labour supporters wryly suggest that her appointment as minister for

overseas development reflects government attitudes to the North-West. Her influence has been felt in many of the industrial achievements in the area but the imposing mansions overlooking the Mersey estuary are no longer assured territory. Many are converted into flats occupied by students and college lecturers upon whose support Mrs Chalker cannot count with certainty.

"I reckon it takes ten years and a third house purchase before a Labour voter turns either Tory or Liberal," she says. "If you have a constant turnover of property, things become more marginal."

Although unemployment is high in Wallasey, it is below the Merseyside average and Mrs Chalker counts to her credit a high number of small businesses and some large new arrivals. Against that, the threat of closure at the Cammell Laird shipyard would have an impact much wider than neighbouring Birkenhead.

Mrs Chalker and Miss Eagle clash most resoundingly over the future of the Merseyside Development Corporation that Conservatives say has invested £281 million into the region. A Labour government would phase out the corporation, which it credits with only limited success, and create a national network of regional development agencies. The case for a specifically Mersey-based agency would be considered, Labour's manifesto for Merseyside says.

Mrs Chalker dismisses the proposal as an unwanted extra tier of bureaucracy, that would cost Merseyside £325 per head. What may be more difficult to dismiss will be the public reaction to a sharp rise in tolls for the Mersey tunnels, due shortly before polling day. Miss Eagle believes that this could add £40,000 a year to the transport costs of some firms.



Postal address: Rosie Barnes braves the rain yesterday to deliver her election message to Greenwich voters

# Barnes goes for personal touch

BY JOHN YOUNG

COME election day, Rosie Barnes will be lucky if she is still on her feet. Suffering from the sort of heavy cold that positively demanded warm blankets and a hot toddy, she spent yesterday afternoon in the pouring rain trudging around a housing estate opposite The Valley football stadium, the long time home of Charlton Athletic, to which the club hopes to return when rebuilding is completed.

At least Ms Barnes, seeking re-election as a Social Democrat MP, received a warm welcome. The first three people who opened their doors all promised their support, and appeared to mean it. Two offered to display posters in their windows, and the third, an elderly widow, said she

would be for fear of attracting attention; local children had recently trampled down her garden fence.

For similar reasons, who has assiduously conducted a poll on the subject, most local residents would prefer that football did not return to The Valley. "They're not bothered about serious violence but football crowds are prone to vandalism, especially if their team loses; breaking windows, snapping off car

aerials, that sort of thing." Ms Barnes is defending Greenwich, which she won in a by-election in February 1987 and held with a reduced majority four months later. Her principal opponent is the Labour candidate Nick Raynsford, a housing expert who formerly worked for Shelter, and was briefly MP for Fulham until he lost the seat at the last election.

"I know people think of Greenwich as rather a nice part of London and wonder why the Tories don't do better," she says. "But most visitors only see the riverside, the park and all those splendid buildings. Nobody lives in Greenwich park. If they went round the housing estates and the streets of Deptford, they would get a rather different picture."

She begins her exhausting daily schedule by taking her son Joseph, aged seven, to recapture it. As they had a 39.4 per cent majority there in the 1987 general election, they are most unlikely to fail.

They are also targeting Southport, where a 1.6 per cent pro-Tory swing would see Ronnie Fearn, the Lib Dem who won it in 1987, unseated. The Lib Dems have a good record in defying national swings to hold their seats, but a poor one in improving their vote sufficiently to win in areas where they are a close second. Still, they hope to pinch back one from the Tories in Hazel Grove, where they need a 1.8 per cent swing.

Tory optimists dream of winning Crewe and Nantwich, where a 1 per cent swing in favour of Brian Silvester would unseat Gwyneth Dunwoody. Some Tories even fantasise about expelling Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, from Copeland. A 2.1 per cent swing is needed. But Dr Cunningham has held the seat since 1983, and Whitehaven, its predecessor, since 1970, on swings generally smaller than the national average.

school before dropping into the office to dictate and sign letters. From 10.30am onwards she is out canvassing until around 9pm, pausing only for a pub lunch and for a short break in the early evening.

Do other candidates in other constituencies doorstep as comprehensively as she does? "No, I'm sure they don't. I think I'm a bit old fashioned. It's made easier by the fact that I'm fairly well known. I don't often have to introduce myself."

The days of the Gang of Four and Breaking the Mould now seem long distant. Will Rosie Barnes survive as a standard bearer? "I think I have a good chance of pulling it off, but of course candidates have to say that," she said.

As the rain fell unrelentingly, a small group of supporters collected their canvass forms and dispersed. The candidate went on her way, bare-headed. "I'm trying to shake off this terrible cold," she said, "but I keep getting drenched and freezing."

Leaving her to her solitary task seemed somehow rather ungalant.

# Lib Dem candidate skates on thin ice

BY ALISON ROBERTS

UNDER any other circumstances, the Liberal Democrat candidate in the marginal south London constituency of Richmond and Barnes should be feeling confident. She trailed the Conservative candidate by just 1,766 votes at the last election, and with national polls showing a swing against the Tories, victory should be within her grasp.

But orange posters in Richmond remind the electorate of the deeply unpopular Liberal Democrat-controlled

1987 result: J J Hanley (C) 21,729 (47.7%); A J Watson (Lib/All) 19,963 (43.8%); M D Gold (Lab) 3,227 (7.1%); C M Matthews (Green) 610 (1.3%). Conservative majority: 1,766

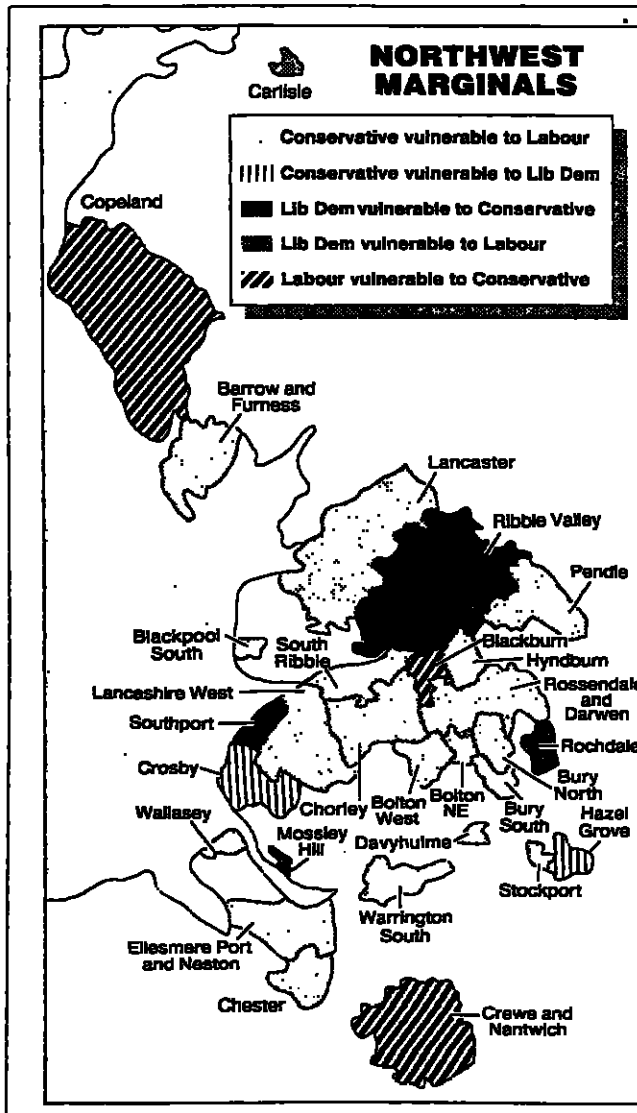
council. Since the closure of Richmond ice-rink, it has been able to do little right and its apparent mistakes mean that its candidate, Jenny Tonge, is running a winnable race with a shot foot. Peter Gooday, a local businessman, said: "If the council's style is anything to go by, I would not like to see Jenny Tonge get in, and I think a lot of people in Richmond would say that."

Mrs Tonge, a doctor, aged 51, was a councillor from 1981 to 1990 and played a part in closing the rink. She says that people are more interested in national issues.

"When I am out canvassing, people will hear their horns and wave. We have a good grassroots support. There are people in the constituency without jobs who never in their wildest dreams thought they would be unemployed. This is the issue that people are worried about."

Jeremy Hanley, the Conservative candidate and Northern Ireland junior minister, is not acting like a worried man, although he says that the fight will be hard because the Tories are not instinctive followers of any one party. "They are a sophisticated lot and they take a keen interest in politics," he says. "I think that is wholly desirable, but it makes elections a hard run."

The Tories are counting the seat as crucial and the big guns have been. Tom King, the defence secretary, has been canvassing, as has Cecil Parkinson. Don Touhig, a councillor in Gwent, is standing for Labour, and Richard Meacock as an independent.



# North-West has power to make or break Kinnock

If Neil Kinnock is to enter Downing Street, he needs first to conquer the North-West. There are 73 seats in the North-West, 11.2 per cent of the total. Of those, 2.1, nearly 30 per cent, figure on Labour's target list of 100 (see map). This is nearly twice as many as would be expected if the proportion of marginals in the area were the same as the proportion of marginals nationally.

Labour has hopes of two gains at the expense of the Liberal Democrats. Mossley Hill, held by David Alton, is vulnerable to a 2.5 per cent swing. Labour needs a rather higher swing of 2.7 per cent, to take Rochdale. But its chances there may be even better, since Cyril Smith is stepping down. That will cost the Liberal Democrats the benefit of a substantial incumbency factor.

The other 19 Tory seats targeted by Labour will fall on swings varying from a mere 0.3 per cent in Wallasey to 8.1 per cent in Davyhulme. Labour needs 97 gains nationally for a bare overall majority; the 98th and 99th seats on its list, Blackpool South and Davyhulme, are both in the

David Lipsey spells out the task facing Labour in a swathe of marginals between Sellafield and Crewe

North-West. Campaign anecdote that Labour is doing well in the region is borne out by polling evidence. A regional analysis of Mori campaign polls suggest a swing in the region of 10.4 per cent as against 7.3 per cent nationally.

Conversely, a poor performance in the North-West would be a body blow to Labour. "If Labour cannot make at least a dozen gains in this region, the Conservatives are likely to be guaranteed a fourth term in office," Robert Waller, author of *The Almanac of British Politics*, said.

The Tories themselves seem assured of at least one gain in the region. They lost Ribblesdale to the Liberal Democrats in the by-election caused by David Waddington's elevation to the Lords in March last year, and need a 4.9 per cent swing

to recapture it. As they had a 39.4 per cent majority there in the 1987 general election, they are most unlikely to fail.

They are also targeting Southport, where a 1.6 per cent pro-Tory swing would see Ronnie Fearn, the Lib Dem who won it in 1987, unseated. The Lib Dems have a good record in defying national swings to hold their seats, but a poor one in improving their vote sufficiently to win in areas where they are a close second. Still, they hope to pinch back one from the Tories in Hazel Grove, where they need a 1.8 per cent swing.

Tory optimists dream of winning Crewe and Nantwich, where a 1 per cent swing in favour of Brian Silvester would unseat Gwyneth Dunwoody. Some Tories even fantasise about expelling Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, from Copeland. A 2.1 per cent swing is needed. But Dr Cunningham has held the seat since 1983, and Whitehaven, its predecessor, since 1970, on swings generally smaller than the national average.

## Young voters

# Thatcher's children lean to left

BY LIN JENKINS

YOUNG people voting for the first time will be making their election choice more in hope than expectation, according to a poll carried out for BBC Radio.

Today's 18-year-olds were just beginning school when Margaret Thatcher took up the reins of government in 1979 and the likelihood of a Labour win appears to them to be remote. They are Thatcher's children: their only knowledge of a Labour government has been gleaned from textbooks and hearsay.

The survey shows that although most support Labour, a majority also believes that the Conservatives will win. Some 45 per cent said they would vote Labour, with 33 per cent choosing the Tories and 15 per cent the Liberal Democrats. Shortly before the last general election a

similar survey commissioned by BBC Radio 1 found the figures to be Labour 43 per cent, Conservative 27 per cent and Alliance 25 per cent. When asked to put aside their party preferences, 46 per cent of the sample, all aged 18-23 and voting in their first general election, thought that the Conservatives would win.

A Labour victory was predicted by 29 per cent, while 1 per cent thought the Liberal Democrats would come out on top. Some 17 per cent thought the election would bring a hung parliament.

In contrast to their voting intentions, John Major was the most popular party leader, with 41 per cent thinking he would make the best prime minister. Neil Kinnock attracted 26 per cent, compared with 21 per cent in the 1987 survey, and Paddy

Ashdown took 19 per cent. Mrs Thatcher had polled 28 per cent in the survey before the last election.

First among the qualities young people think a politician should possess was honesty (43 per cent) followed by understanding, catering for what people needed and keeping promises, which each polled 13 per cent.

The Labour party was seen as more likely to improve public services such as health and education and most able to understand people's daily problems. The Lib Dems strengths included having fresh ideas and understanding ordinary people's problems. The Tories scored on defence and Europe.

ICM/BBC Radio 1 interviewed 779 people aged 18-23 on March 17 and 18 in 54 randomly selected constituencies.

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## Federal treaty to be signed today

## Yeltsin wins deal that defeated Gorbachev

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

REPRESENTATIVES of autonomous republics and regions inside the Russian Federation met in Moscow yesterday to try to agree the last points of the Russian federal treaty. The treaty, to be signed in the Kremlin today, is seen by the Russian leadership as vital to prevent Russia following the Soviet Union into disintegration.

The federal treaty has been under discussion since last summer, but work was accelerated last month as the richer constituent republics of the federation started to claim more and more autonomy. Two weeks ago, Russian Khasulatov, chairman of the Rus-

sian parliament, triumphantly announced that the treaty had been initiated by leaders of 18 of the 20 autonomous republics.

The two that dissented are Tatarstan to the east of Moscow, which voted ten days ago to aim for independent statehood, and Chechnya, the breakaway republic in the northern Caucasus, which unilaterally declared independence last autumn. Yesterday the future of a third republic, Bashkiria (which now styles itself Bashkortostan) in the southern Ural, was still unclear.

The non-Russian nationalities in these republics are all

Islamic, and Tatarstan and Bashkiria are potentially rich in oil. The chairman of Bashkiria's parliament, Murtaza Rakhimov, said in Moscow that his parliament had rejected the treaty because it did not resolve property ownership, rights over mineral resources or economic policy. Bashkiria said that it had no intention of seceding, but wanted to negotiate a bilateral treaty with Russia.

Representatives from Tatarstan arrived in Moscow on Sunday to start talks with Russian leaders on a bilateral treaty. If other Russian republics decide they prefer this option, the whole federal treaty could yet be in doubt. The signing ceremony has already been postponed once, from March 25, "for technical reasons".

Aware that Russian leaders are desperate to have the treaty signed before the new constitution is considered at next month's Russian Congress of People's Deputies, several republics were trying their hand at brinkmanship. Mikhail Nikolayev, the president of Yakutia, the gold and diamond producer in the north-east, which now calls itself Sakha, was quoted as saying that his parliament wanted amendments.

If even 17 of the 20 republics sign the federal treaty today, President Yeltsin and his team will be well pleased. On paper, at least, they will have achieved what Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet Union's president, was unable to in a year of intensive talks.

The text of the treaty also shows that Russia was prepared to give away more in terms of economic and political autonomy. All the republics, for instance, will be able to have their own constitution and their own foreign relations, so long as they do not conflict with Russia's.

It was not known yesterday if the more than 80 individual regions and districts which make up Russia proper would participate in today's ceremony. As negotiations on the treaty drew to a close, several Russian officials said that all Russia's regions would be invited to sign the treaty and would then enjoy equal status — in terms of political and economic autonomy — with the republics.

Only a day after the 18 republics initiated the federal treaty, a similar document was initiated by regional representatives.

The proposal to grant regions similar status to republics is based partly on size. Autonomous republic status was based on ethnic considerations, and many Russian regions have bigger populations than the republics. The proposal may also have been meant to persuade the republics to sign the federal treaty.

Leading article, page 15

## Ukrainians shun coupon money

Ukraine's surrogate money, a bid to escape the domination of the Russian rouble, is proving highly unpopular, Robert Seely writes from Kiev

In an underground passage in Kiev, Ukraine's sex entrepreneurs sell viewing time for a much-fingered Penthouse magazine. The price, more than two months after the introduction of Ukraine's coupons, is still in Moscow-rite roubles: five for a peek and 230 to buy.

Ukraine's coupons have failed the test of public confidence. Introduced by the government as a half-hearted attempt to wrest control of its potentially rich economy from Russian domination, the coupons have failed to protect its citizens' standard of living, or pave the way for the republic's currency, the hryvna. Black-market dealers, ever acute to public confidence in the rouble, started selling the coupons at a rate of six to one, but by this weekend roubles and coupons were interchangeable in price.

Oxana Marchuk, a seller of gherkins and garlic in Kiev's Bessarabsky market, said yesterday: "Right now I don't care what I'm paid in, but if the coupons drop in value much more I will only take roubles." No coins were minted with the French-printed coupons, and none is being sent from Russia. The chaotic result is that in Kharkov, Ukraine's second city, 15 kopek pieces needed to pay for rides on the city's underground are selling for between 80 kopeks and one coupon a piece, because of a shortage of the coins.

Factories and farms — as well as citizens — are hoarding. Long-term investment is being stalled,

and Ukraine, known as the bread basket of Eastern Europe, is forced to buy grain abroad because its own farmers refuse to sell for coupons. Oleksandr Savchenko, a deputy director of the republic's national bank until a fortnight ago, said: "Businesses are stockpiling goods because they don't have a purpose. They don't need the coupons. They only want to sell for dollars."

Vitold Fokin, Ukraine's prime minister, gave an original explanation for the coupon's slide when journalists asked what went wrong: "They are falling in price because there are a lot of them. There is no longer a deficit."

Worse for Ukrainians may soon follow. If the government ploughs ahead with its economic emergency package, agreed by Ukraine's conservative parliament, the Rada, Ukraine's currency will be rushed into circulation within 10 weeks.

Ukraine's ruling apparatus will then attempt to restructure the republic's economy to isolate it from Russia's price rises and re-gear it for export markets. Western advisers argue privately that such a move would be disastrous. For most people, the experiment in market protection has not improved their lives.

Tanya Stetsenko, a school teacher, said that people would continue to pay for books with roubles because of the lack of coupons. "You either buy food or books with the coupons. You can't do both because there aren't enough."



Looking to the future: President Yeltsin of Poland, left, with President Gorbachev of Russia, right, at a ceremony in the White House in Moscow. Yeltsin is seeking Western investment and wants to further Polish-German reconciliation. Yesterday he also laid a wreath at the Bonn memorial to victims of wars and tyranny.

Hundreds of German soldiers are buried nearby. Before leaving Poland, Mr Yeltsin told the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper: "I don't want money. I just want to advise the Germans where they can do good business." But Heinrich

Weiss, president of the Federation of German Industry, said Poland would have to set its economic house in order before it could attract substantial Western investment. Mr Yeltsin is still to meet Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. (AP)

## Elaborate KGB plot aimed to acquire Western 'bugs'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FORMER Soviet counter-intelligence chiefs were so obsessed with protecting their foreign-based embassy cipher clerks that they ordered a secret operation to discover whether "bugs" were being placed in clothes sent for dry cleaning, a KGB document published yesterday says.

Operations Blesna-6 and Blesna-7 were launched by the KGB in 1985 in Western capitals to expose what they feared was an elaborate surveillance network involving local shopkeepers, dry cleaners and even gardeners in nearby parks. One objective was to get their hands on the West's latest bugging equipment, which they feared was being placed in personal effects of cipher clerks that had been handed over "for repair, dry cleaning or other services".

The secret document, revealed for the first time by Oleg Gordievsky, the former senior KGB officer who spied for MI6, is published in the British journal *Intelligence and National Security*. The concern of the KGB was heightened by their own successes in this field.

Two of the most productive Western traitors of modern times, John Walker, an American, and the Briton Geoffrey Prime, had access to vital cipher and signals intelli-

gence secrets. The KGB feared there might be Primes or Walkers in their cipher organisations.

Walker, a chief warrant officer, was a communications watch officer on the staff of the commander of US submarine forces in the Atlantic. Prime worked at the British government's GCHQ signals intelligence centre at Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. Both are now serving long prison sentences.

On March 21, 1985, a cable marked "top secret" was sent to the Soviet embassy in London from the head of Directorate K, the counter-intelligence branch of the KGB's first chief directorate. During operations Blesna-6 and Blesna-7, a special team



Gordievsky: revealed the secret document

was set up. The team was made up of a cipher clerk and a member of the KGB staff "who speaks the local language". According to the orders from Moscow, the KGB was to use personnel for the operation whose cover had been "blown", to ensure that any visits they made to local shops would already be watched by foreign "special services".

The cable adds: "We assume that, from knowledge of the functional duties and general behaviour of referents (cipher section) officials, the adversary is able to distinguish a cipher clerk from other Soviet nationals visiting shops of consumer services."

Moscow suggested that cipher clerks who were about to be replaced should be used in the operation. Western surveillance agencies would be fooled into thinking they were buying goods to take back to Moscow. The clerks were told to buy shoes with heels, electronic wristwatches with alarms, jackets, fountain pens with built-in electronic watches, lighters, wallets and notebooks with hard covers.

In another classified document, Vladimir Kryuchkov, the former KGB chief now in prison for his part in last year's failed coup, sent a directive to all his station chiefs in 1985, warning of alcohol abuse among cipher clerks.

## Arms halt gets Kohl in trouble

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BONN'S decision to halt arms deliveries to Turkey yesterday provoked a furious argument between Helmut Kohl and Turgut Ozal, the Turkish president, and led to the dismissal of one of Bonn's top civil servants as scapegoat for a senior minister.

The chancellor issued a strong statement demanding withdrawal of remarks made by Mr Ozal in a weekend interview which equated the power of modern Germany with that of Hitler.

Herr Kohl is worried about domestic fallout from the arms affair. After German-made armoured cars were used against Kurdish civilians, Bonn blocked all arms deliveries to Turkey last week. It has emerged that 15 Leopard I tanks were sent there despite a Bundestag committee order last November.

The opposition Social Democrats have demanded the resignation of the defence minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, and the junior defence minister, Oskar Henning, who was at the meeting but failed to see that the committee decision was enforced.

Yesterday Wolfgang Ruppert, head of the ministry's armaments section, accepted responsibility and agreed to take early retirement.

## Republics may lose 15m jobs

Washington: Unemployment in the former Soviet Union this year may reach the levels of the Western depression of the 1930s, according to a survey published yesterday.

The study, by the International Labour Organisation, shows that more than 15 million former Soviet workers will be unemployed, 12 per cent of the work force. Another 30 million workers in state jobs risk being made redundant because they are underemployed. In St Petersburg, for example, production at a boot factory has fallen from 12 million pairs to eight million but there have been no lay offs. (AP)

## Move attacked

Warsaw: Women deputies in the Polish parliament have attacked a church-backed party's bid to ban abortion and called for a national referendum on the issue. Poland is overwhelmingly Catholic, but abortion is legal and freely available. (Reuters)

## Party triumphs

Tirana: The Democratic party, which toppled the former communists in the March 22 parliamentary elections in Albania, narrowly missed winning a two-thirds absolute majority, capturing 92 of the 140 seats, the election commission said. (AP)

## Crew rescued

Oporto: An air force helicopter rescued 16 crew from the *Penelope I*, a Greek-owned freighter that ran aground in mountainous seas and high winds off the north Portuguese coast. There were no casualties, an unnamed sailor reported by radio. (AP)

## Deadline set

Moscow: Georgia's ruling state council gave forces backing Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, until midnight last night to surrender their arms. The ultimatum came after rebel forces seized control of four villages in the west of the republic. (AFP)

## Past forgiven

Madrid: King Juan Carlos of Spain and President Herzog of Israel will be blessed by a rabbi in the synagogue here today in a symbolic gesture of reconciliation 500 years to the day since Roman Catholic monarchs banished Jews from Spain. (Reuters)

## Date advanced

Berlin: Officials say most of the 2.4 million claims by former East Germans on property expropriated by the communists in the east of the country would be resolved by 1994, bringing the planned completion date forward from beyond 2000. (Reuters)

## Sight unseen

Christchurch: Michael Baughen, the bishop of Chester, said here he had given communion to a woman at a service in the South Pacific Solomon Islands, but did not realise that she was barren until his wife told him afterwards. (Reuters)

## Law's net lies in wait for whale

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN GERZE

THE whale watch continued yesterday at the end of Gerze pier for Aydin, a rare white beluga cetacean not sighted for some days but whose destiny promises to become case history in international law and environmental science.

Last night Ali Talip Ozdemir, the Turkish minister for the environment, was due to receive a petition brought by a British emissary from the Marine Life Rescue charity, bearing letters from solicitors certifying that Turkey was under no obligation to return Aydin to the Marine Institute in Sevastopol, from where he escaped.

The Turkish government has promised to send both Aydin and Ali, a second beluga last reported roaming the Sea of Marmara, back to Ukraine. That move is being opposed by a growing coalition of international environmental groups gathering in this small Black Sea town.

Andy Onaway of Greenpeace International said that to repatriate Aydin and Ali to their birthplace in the Sakhalin Straits off the Sea of Okhotsk — apart from costing millions of pounds — might be like releasing a pathological timebomb of infections the whales may have collected in their travels far from home. Finding the pair presents the first challenge.

## Minister's downfall adds to Socialist woes as Cresson awaits her doom

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS FRANCE awaits the cabinet reshuffle that is widely expected to end Edith Cresson's brief tenure as prime minister, another member of her government has run into trouble as a direct result of the Socialist's humiliation in the regional elections.

After a bitter controversy, Jean-Marie Rausch, a centrist who served as minister for post and telecommunications, yesterday gave up the presidency of the Lorraine region that he had assumed last Friday.

The downfall of M Rausch was caused by the strong suspicion that he owed his election to a handful of crucial votes by councillors representing the extreme right-wing National Front. It comes hard on the heels of Mme Cresson's sacking of Jean-Pierre Soisson, formerly minister for public administration, on the ground that he had received National Front backing to become president of the regional council for Burgundy.

M Soisson was ordered to choose between the cabinet and his region, but M Rausch — who is also mayor of Metz, the region's largest city — insisted yesterday that his own circumstances were different. "I made the decision without any pressure, but with much emotion," he said yesterday. Lorraine is going through hard times economi-



"Get on with it, François!" Edith Cresson's political fate as seen by *Le Quotidien de Paris*

cally, he said, and it was essential that the regional council should be able to function properly.

M Rausch complained that the National Front had "made the climate more vicious and deepened divisions in the region". And although he would not contest the presidency again, formation of a consensus council that excluded the extreme right would have his support.

It seems clear from these two cases that National Front strategy since the regional elections is aimed at isolating

and destabilising the government at this moment of trouble. Both M Rausch and M Soisson were signed up to demonstrate President Mitterrand's commitment to *ouverture*, or opening up the government to politicians from the centre.

Although simple arithmetic indicates that both men did indeed benefit from National Front votes, M Soisson is evidently prepared to soldier on in Burgundy, despite yesterday's loud demands from the conservative bloc for him to follow the "honourable" ex-

ample of M Rausch. His decision to opt out of Mme Cresson's government is seen as a signal to others from the moderate right to steer well clear of the Socialist party in its present state of turmoil.

As for the beleaguered prime minister, subject of many a cruel cartoon in the press, she remains tight-lipped about her immediate future. Emerging from a 35-minute meeting with M Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace yesterday, she informed reporters crisply: "I'll tell you about that next time."

The general assumption is that today is M Mitterrand's last chance to remove Mme Cresson this week, given that April Fools' day, with its inescapable symbolism, comes next and the new session of the National Assembly begins on Thursday.

There has been speculation that M Mitterrand would pick either Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, or Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, as France's next prime minister. M Delors's official spokesman, however, yesterday reaffirmed that M Delors wanted to stay in Brussels until his current job finishes at the end of this year.

It is hard to see how the new session of the National Assembly can begin without a prime minister in office, if only because somebody will have to stand up and take the Socialists' punishment from the opposition benches.

## Madrid stays wary despite Eta arrests

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

BASQUE guerrillas continue to pose a threat to the Olympic Games in Barcelona and the Expo world fair in Seville in spite of the arrests at the weekend of three senior Eta leaders in southwest France.

José Luis Corcuera, the Spanish interior minister, emphasised yesterday that there should be "no euphoria" about the arrests. "Eta is still able to assassinate," he said, adding: "We are going to intensify the security of all the events in Spain."

He said Spain would be seeking to extradite all those people detained, but the process depended on whether they also faced charges in France. Yesterday the ten people arrested by the elite French anti-terrorist squad on Sunday evening at a top-level Eta meeting in Bidart, 13 miles north of the border with Spain's Basque region, were separated and the three leading Eta members were moved to an unknown destination.

The three men are: Francisco Múgica Garmendia, alias Artapalo, aged 38, from Ordizia, believed to be Eta's leader for the past five years; José Luis Alvarez Santacristina, alias Txelis, from San Sebastian, thought to be Eta's political and propaganda chief; and José Arregui Erosarbe, alias Fidi, from Mondragón, a bomb expert. He is facing a ten-year prison sentence in France after flee-

ing from a lorry filled with three years' supply of explosives. Señor Múgica, who has lived in France for 20 years, is wanted for organising at least 20 attacks, including the shooting of Maria Dolores González, his girlfriend.

Señor Corcuera said that the raid had been "a brilliant police operation" between the Spanish Civil Guard and the French police. "We have demonstrated once again that terrorism, any terrorism of any insignia, is not only going to be pursued each day but also with more efficiency in all Europe," he said. He would not reveal full details of the arrests, but said that they were made without a shot being fired, even though the men were armed.

"We are going to intensify the security of all the events in Spain [in 1992] because, as I have said, the important operation continues." Señor Corcuera said that each day the Basque separatists' capacity was diminishing because of work by the police forces, alert citizens and political parties.

At a city councillors' meeting in San Sebastian yesterday, members of Herri Batasuna, Eta's political party, interrupted the proceedings to read a homage to the "heroes" who had been arrested and praised their "courage over the years". Various disturbances took place in other Basque towns.



## Police win cat-and-mouse game on Kashmir border

A DANGEROUS game was played out high in the Kashmir mountains yesterday as police searched for separatist militants who were trying to cross the border into India from Pakistan. Just before nightfall, the leader of the planned assault was arrested when only five miles from the border.

Raja Muzaffar, acting chairman of the militant Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, was about to give an interview to journalists in a remote village, Gajar Bandi. Barely had he started talking when somebody shouted that the police were coming. He fled, only to be picked up with eight colleagues several hours later.

Twenty police, who had evidently trailed the reporters through the mountains, ordered the journalists to put their hands up and said they were violating a regulation banning assemblies of more than four people. They had been talking to a wanted man, an officer said. At one point he threatened to tie everybody up with rope. After half an hour, he allowed the reporters to walk back to Chinari, the main village in the area.

Mr Muzaffar led the attempted border assault because Amamulahi Khan, the front's leader, is under arrest. As he ran off into the hills, Mr Muzaffar said he would attempt to cross the

Elements of force crept into efforts by both India and Pakistan to contain Kashmiri militants yesterday, writes Christopher Thomas from Chinari

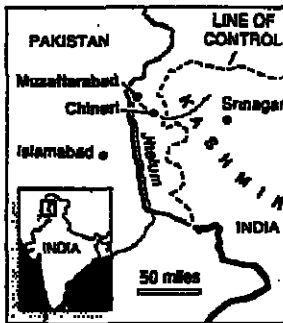
border despite a massive police presence along the border, known officially as the line of control.

Police in riot gear manned several barricades on a winding mountain road leading from Muzaffarabad to the border. Barbed wire and a wall of rocks blocked the road just of Chinari, five miles from the dividing line. A set of paramilitary troops in riot gear stood behind the coils of barbed wire. More

were ranged across the heights to stop activists crossing the hills.

It was a much more thorough security operation than last month's chaotic efforts to stop the marchers, who broke through all police lines and were only halted when they came face to face with the army a short distance from the border.

Pakistan's determination to avoid renewed tensions with India over Kashmir has



been clearly demonstrated by its readiness to use force against its own citizens to stop the border being crossed. Foreign governments, including Britain and America, had warned Pakistan not to allow the border to be breached in case

it led to a third war over Kashmir. Although Pakistan aids the uprising on the Indian side of the border, it has no desire for direct confrontation. Delhi has accused Islamabad of waging a proxy war.

The front, which started the violent uprising in the valley three years ago, will be disappointed by yesterday's anti-climax. It is trying to build support on the Pakistani side of the border for a reunited, independent Kashmir, but every political party in the country has come down against the idea. The organisation is struggling to maintain the momentum generated by last month's mass march.

Mr Muzaffar had been on the run for a week since Pakistani security forces began arresting JKLF leaders and later halted public transport to prevent sympathisers reaching Muzaffarabad.

Girish Saxena, India's governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, said Indian soldiers had orders to use restraint but that anyone crossing the border risked being shot.

All big towns in the valley were put under 24-hour curfew and roads to the border were blocked. Only local residents, with special identity cards, were allowed through. In Srinagar, a hotbed of the revolt, paramilitary troops laid virtual siege to

militant strongholds in the old city. Despite their presence, at least 500 JKLF supporters paraded to yell slogans. Elsewhere in the old city, young men played cricket with makeshift bats on generally deserted streets, in an apparent show of defiance of the curfew.

A similar march organised by the JKLF last month ended after two days with seven people dead and scores wounded in a series of battles with Pakistani forces. India and Pakistan have twice gone to war over Kashmir and nearly came to blows again two years ago over Indian charges that Pakistan was arming and training militants.

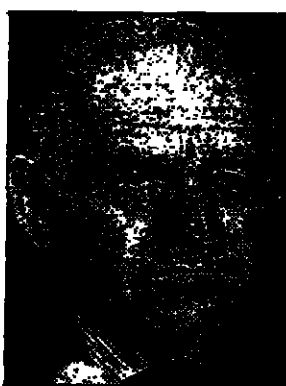
## Shamir's re-election prospects fade Levy's mutiny splits Israeli ruling party

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, Israel's prime minister, struggled yesterday to contain the growing political crisis within the ranks of his ruling Likud party after the resignation of David Levy, the foreign minister, on Sunday.

Still reeling from the shock of Mr Levy's vitriolic attack on him, the Israeli leader must take steps to reunite his party or face the very real prospect of defeat in the general elections on June 23. Speaking in the Galilee town of Migdal Haemeq, Mr Shamir attempted to smooth over the differences with his foreign minister yesterday saying that he did not understand the accusations levelled against his leadership of the party and that Mr Levy had no reason to tender his resignation. "Levy does not have to carry out his resignation, there is no justification... We all believe in the same cause," Mr Shamir said.

However, his comments did little to undo the damage caused by Mr Levy's hour-long diatribe against the Likud leadership, particularly Mr Shamir and his designated successor, Moshe Arens, the defence minister. Mr Levy caused an ideological split in the party when he blamed his fellow cabinet colleagues for unnecessarily antagonising America, as well as failing to



Shamir: upset by harsh personal attack

take advantage of the current peace process, which he helped to bring about.

But possibly the most damaging allegations levelled against the Likud leadership is that it deliberately discriminated against Mr Levy and his followers because they come from Sephardi (Oriental) backgrounds, traditionally Likud's grassroots working-class supporters, as opposed to the Ashkenazi (European) Jewish elite who dominate the upper echelons of the party.

"The time has come for Mr Shamir to understand that he has not got us in his pocket," said Prosper Azran, the Moroccan-born mayor of the town of Kiryat Shmona, who, along with other local Likud

leaders, could make or break Mr Shamir's campaign for re-election.

A few weeks ago the Israeli prime minister, aged 76, could probably have gambled on being able to banish Mr Levy into the political wilderness for his mutiny, but the Israeli foreign minister timed his resignation speech to coincide with a vulnerable period for Mr Shamir both on the domestic and international stages. Until recently, Likud enjoyed a commanding lead in the opinion polls, mainly due to its unique position as the only party in Israel able to make a convincing case to the electorate that it could deliver peace and security in the current negotiations with Arab states.

However, its popularity has been steadily eroded by a series of disastrous economic figures, marked by record unemployment of 11 per cent, falling wages and a drastic slowdown in Jewish immigration. Internationally, the Jewish state has seen its traditionally solid relations with Washington deteriorate to an all-time low after President Bush blocked a request for \$10 billion (£5.7 billion) in loan guarantees because of Likud's refusal to halt its settlement expansion programme in the occupied territories. Relations were further strained last week when American inspectors investigated allegations that Israel secretly transferred Patriot anti-missile technology to China.

To make matters worse for Mr Shamir, the opposition Labour party has seen its political fortunes improve substantially in the same period, partly as a result of the leadership victory of Yitzhak Rabin, under whose guidance Labour recently overtook Likud in the polls for the first time in several years.

Even the pro-Shamir Jerusalem Post newspaper, which urged the government to replace Mr Levy with a younger politician, admitted for the first time since the election campaign began that Likud would lose power in the current climate. "The main threat to the Likud's continued rule comes from the electorate's disillusionment," the paper said in an editorial yesterday.

By choosing Yitzhak Rabin rather than Shimon Peres to head it, the Labour Party has succeeded in radiating an impression of rejuvenation. After 15 years in office, the Likud with its similar leadership cannot do as much. Its chances of being re-elected in the prevailing anti-incumbent mood are slim," the Jerusalem Post added.

## Japanese communist scores 100

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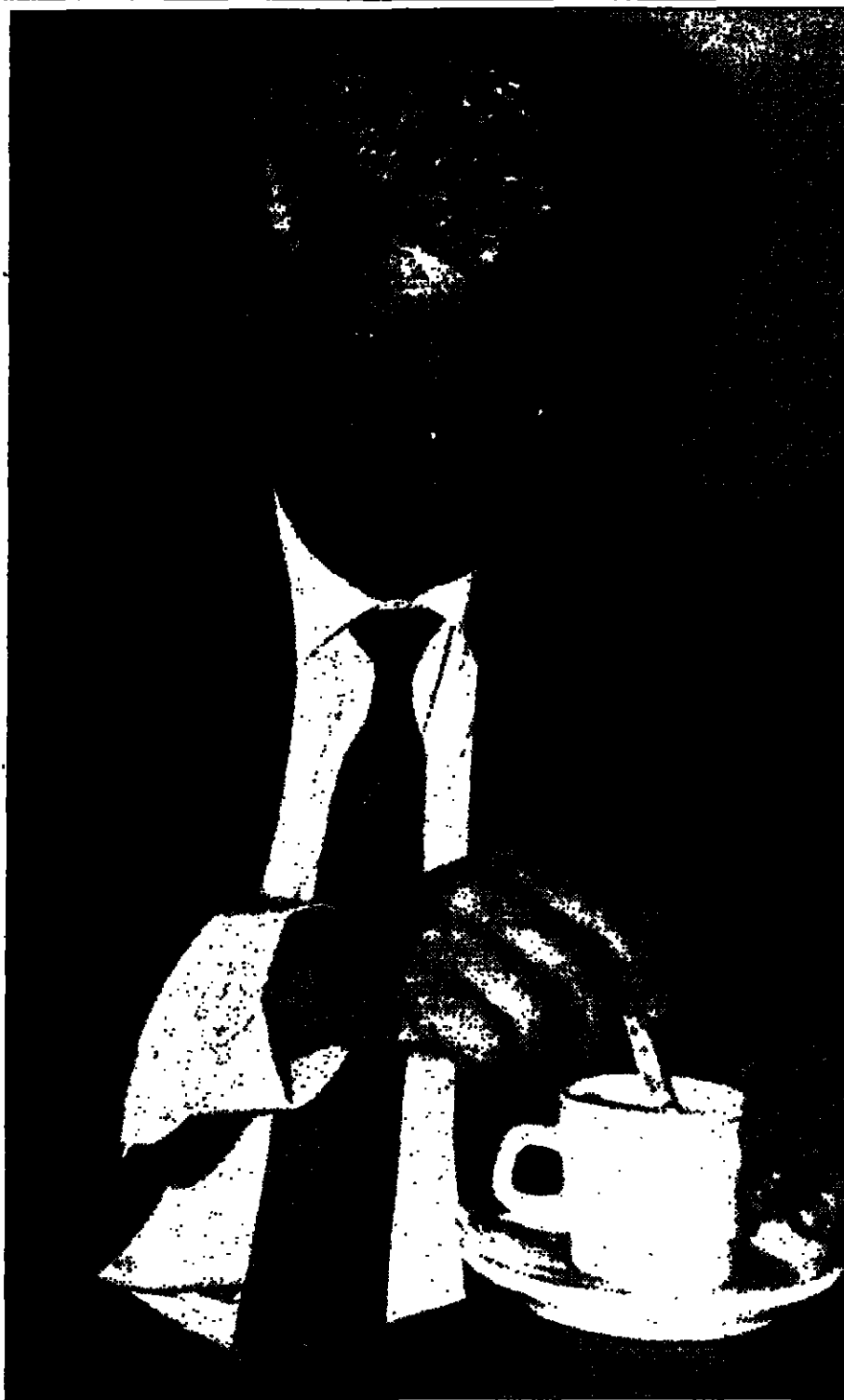
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The lawyer for photographer Geoff Henderson of Sydney's *The Daily Telegraph-Mirror* said the complaint was withdrawn. No other details were released.

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Pittsburgh Symphony conductor Lorin Maazel will become chief conductor of the Bavarian state radio orchestra next year. Maazel is the minister of constitutional development, said political strife in black communities could delay the process.



After the storm: David Levy, who resigned as Israel's foreign minister on Sunday, concentrating on his cup of coffee at a Knesset meeting yesterday

## UN guards freedom of choice for returning Cambodians

FROM NEIL KELLY IN SISOPHON, CAMBODIA

FOR the tenth time Cham Roen was asked by a United Nations official: "Are you going where you want to go in Cambodia?" He nodded and was given a departure card which yesterday took him and his family back to Cambodia after four years in a refugee camp in Thailand.

With 523 others they were the first of 375,000 Cambodians to be repatriated under the peace settlement signed five months ago. Another 500 will return today. About 10,000 will be repatriated by the end of April.

Refugees are allowed to go wherever they wish in Cambodia. They have been asked several times to confirm their

original choice. UN officials here say that it is a safeguard against the Khmer Rouge forcing people to go to places against their will where they can be kept under Khmer Rouge control.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian head of state, welcoming the returning refugees at Sisophon, said they had come back to an area where there was peace and stability, but added that elsewhere there was still fighting between the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government forces. He said he had discussed the fighting with the parties concerned, but all he heard from them were accusations and counter-accusations. "I don't know the truth," he said.

Mr Cham, a farmer who had been living in a Khmer Rouge refugee camp for four years, said he was not frightened of the Khmer Rouge because he felt the United Nations was now protecting the people. The returning Cambodians appeared to take comfort from the UN's conspicuous role in the repatriation and the presence of foreign journalists. Gesturing to his two small children, Mr Cham said he was worried about landmines which all sides had laid.

The resettlement of those who returned yesterday will begin tomorrow.

## Codesa set on power sharing

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African political leaders have agreed to try to form an interim, multi-racial government before July.

A working group at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa - Codesa - the multi-party negotiating forum, proposed the target date yesterday in an attempt to speed the election of a constitution-making body. The group, which includes representatives of the National party government and the African National Congress, said every attempt should be made to convene the second plenary session of Codesa on April 24 and 25 and to install an interim government by June 30.

Tertius Delpoit, the deputy minister of constitutional development, said that if sufficient progress was made in the negotiations, general elections for a new constitution-making legislature could be held next year. The principal parties envisage a two-phase transitional period, involving some form of executive power-sharing, followed by elections.

The government yesterday tabled proposals for a bicameral parliament in the second phase, in which minority parties would have disproportionate representation in the second house, and both houses would have to approve the constitution. The document rejected the ANC's proposals for a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one man, one vote.

Saki Macozoma, for the ANC, expressed concern that a bicameral parliament would give the leaders of tribal homelands a power of veto in the lower house. However, he agreed there were now similarities between the two parties' concepts of interim arrangements. Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of constitutional development, said political strife in black communities could delay the process.

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## Star-struck British invaders take Oscar beach-head

IF YOU stayed up watching the Oscars and lamented at the lack of British presence, with such ubiquitous exceptions as Anthony Hopkins and Michael Caine, you might have taken a closer look at the front row of shrieking fans who mobbed the celebrity arrivals.

As the likes of Barbara Streisand and Warren Beatty sprang out of their limousines, they were besieged not only by a swarm of paparazzi but a legion of British celebrity-hunting tourists who had flown out to Los Angeles to camp in royal-wedding style for two days to get the best public seats for gawping.

Percy Keppin, aged 71, a veteran royal-wedding camper from Maidstone, Kent,

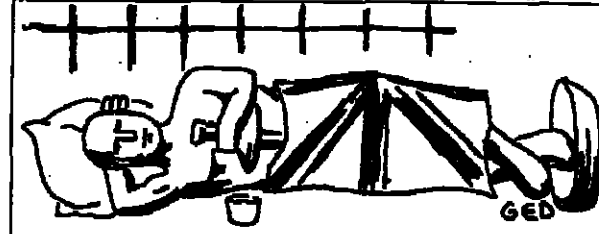
A veteran royal-wedding camper led the Britons who took control of the pavements for the Oscar parade, William Cash in Los Angeles reports

flew in with his daughter Carol on a discount Virgin Airways flight, arriving on the pavement outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at 5am on Saturday. Wearing a Universal Studios souvenir badge, he said: "I just love Hollywood. I would have loved to come here in the Thirties and seen Cooper and Cagney. They were my heroes."

Mr Keppin said he was fed up with having to stay up all night watching the Oscars on his television at

home. "My friends are going to be very envious," he said.

Standing beneath a 30ft gold-painted replica of an Oscar statuette which had just been lowered into place by a giant crane, Tony Murphy, aged 33, who works in a wages office for the regional council in Glasgow, said he was obsessed by films and that being here on Oscar night was the highlight of his year. Mr Murphy was dressed in full Scottish football away strip



and was well supplied with sandwiches and beer. "After the Oscars, I'll be straight off to see the stars at the Spago party. It's a great atmosphere, better than most football matches," he said. Andrew Connolly, who works for the National Westminster Bank in Nottingham, was dressed in an anorak and carried the latest Tom Clancy novel. He

said he hoped to impress his friends with his Oscar night story for the next year. "Nottingham isn't exactly the heart of the film-making world. I once saw Alan Rickman at a distance of 10 yards. I felt a sort of tingling feeling all over and my heart started pounding."

These celebrity-hunting tourists watched on portable television sets as the

likes of Audrey Hepburn, Goldie Hawn, Paul Newman and Elizabeth Taylor read out the names of the winners early this morning. The first results out, however, concerned losers rather than winners. The annual Golden Raspberry awards were announced earlier in the Academy Room of the Roosevelt Hotel, where the original Oscars were handed out before the war.

Bruce Willis's *Hudson Hawk* was named the worst film of the year by the 365-member Razzie organisation, which has been mocking the Oscars for the past 12 years. Kevin Costner was named worst actor for his performance in *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves*.

Baby boom, page 14



# Babyboomers come of age

Peter Stothard on the presidential hopefuls who play a generation game

Americans no longer admire British elections for their brevity and civility. How could they? But they do envy us for one thing — the way we have played the "generation game". At a Bill Clinton rally on Sunday night a New York schoolteacher reminded me that whatever the result in Britain on April 9, the second world war generation is out, that both Neil Kinnock (b.1942) and John Major (b.1943) are members of the class below that of Michael Foot and Margaret Thatcher.

May Abbott approved of the way a quick coup in each party removed those whose formative experience was the "GI days". Would this really last, she asked, I reassured her that unless a hung parliament hauls some grizzly elder from the red benches, Downing Street will continue to be occupied by one for whom the Hitler threat lay in the rationing of mashed banana. In a crazy year, she considered that a rare sign of reasoned political life.

New Yorkers divide themselves into generations almost as readily as into income groups. Just one school of contemporary age-speak has given us the "lost generation", the "GI", the "silent" and the "boomer" generations. When they look at their own presidential primary on April 7, the G-factor is high fashion.

Bill Clinton (b.1946) is touchingly proud of being the first baby-boomer candidate for the White House. He wants "generational change" and the election of the first president of the 21st century; himself. Patrick Buchanan (b.1938) calls for the generation of George Bush (b.1924) to give way to — what else? — the "Buchanan generation". Even though he has given up the race, Paul Tsongas (b.1941) is still going on about "generational responsibilities".

This is a high-stakes battle of symbols. Since there is no clear electoral argument about Washington's place in the world (or even its place in America), the appearance of a philosophy could make the difference between a seat on Airforce One next year and a coach-class ticket home.

In November, George Bush will bid to stretch the term of the so-called "GI generation" in the White House to a record 35 years: from John Kennedy in 1961, through Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. This is the longest ascendancy since the "glided generation" — from Ulysses Grant to Grover Cleveland — that drew its strength from the Civil War.

Voters on left and right are saying that enough is enough, that for former jet pilots and tank drivers, international economic competition can never be as glamorous as a gunfight. Supporters of both Mr Buchanan and Governor Clinton ridicule the president as

"Poppy" Bush, an out-of-touch buffer born in the prohibition era to the sound of a Gloria Swanson movie. Bring on the next in line, they say.

But who is that? The American contemporaries of Messrs Kinnock and Major — those who were born too late to be in the war but not late enough to be "boomers" — are known as "the silents". None of them has ever reached the presidential podium. Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis, Gary Hart and Tom Harkin are among those who tried but failed.

A week ago it looked as though the Democratic "silents" were doomed to be a lost presidential generation. Then suddenly from the Connecticut primary came one last unlikely hope. Former California Governor, Jerry Brown (b.1938) is storming across New York this week trying to keep both the dreaded youth and the tired older at bay. In one last pitch for the nation's "fiftysomethings" he is trying to glue Messrs Clinton and Bush together, suggesting that corruptly and secretly, the foulest financial and political habits of the old have been passed on to the young.

He has a big following. Jerry Brown is genuinely different. He represents what politics was supposed to become after the age of big war. His borrowed mantra is "we the people". He is running his presidential campaign just the way he ran California in the 1970s: through carefully crafted images of his own responsiveness and asceticism.

He stands for nothing. But, more than that, he acts as though to "stand for something" would be the dumbest decision that any politician could take. He relies on symbols, but not the way that George Bush or Bill Clinton might use a symbol to sell a policy. His symbols — his minimalist lifestyle, rejection of gubernatorial mansions and his voter interviews by computer — are his everything.

Mr Brown has reduced himself to a telephone wire along which voter's anger against George Bush and distrust of Bill Clinton can pass with the minimum resistance. His foreign policies are attitudes to which no one can object: the ending of hunger, the extension of human rights, the preservation of the atmosphere. No one in New York much cares about his attitudes to power, only about his ability to keep the generational battle alive. April 7 is his birthdate: primary voters here want more choice. They would like to be offered other "silents", even some of the tarnished names behind the tarnished doors of Capitol Hill. But last year Mr Bush silenced them again, in best "GI generation" style, with a minor war which made him look unbeatable. Only Mr Brown is now left to stop Governor Clinton claiming the "boomers" inheritance before it is due.



Fiftysomething symbol: contender Jerry Brown

Janet Daley says customers will stay away from shops that forget the buyer knows best

## Service with a snarl

The British have learnt how to complain at last. They no longer accept rude and slow service with a cringing grin. They do not back away apologetically when a retailer refuses a request. When British Rail devises a more than usually imaginative torture, they threaten riot and civil disorder. They are no longer content to be on the receiving end of every form of incompetence and bureaucratic bullying. But when it comes to the areas where we are really kicked around by big interests, how much good will it do?

Waving your arms around in your local DIY store because they do not stock the drill bits you need may get you some attention. What it will not do is bring back the corner hardware store, which not only had the drill bits but was willing to sell them individually rather than in bubble-packed sets. Returning rotten produce to the supermarket can earn you apologies and credit vouchers. But it will have no effect on the iniquitously high profit margins the big chains put on basic foods. Reversing the trend towards supermarkets and mega-expensive supermarkets — which, having wiped out local competition, are free to charge what they like — will take more

than a bit of individual truculence.

This readiness to criticise and demand is not a sign of increasing anger with poorer public services. There is a perverse but well-documented pattern to human discontent: a small improvement in terrible conditions makes victims more inclined to agitate for further improvements. Totalitarian governments know that it is when they lighten up a bit that their subjects are most likely to rebel (as in the Soviet Union). Having a taste of something better acts as an appetiser to a greater hunger.

People are not complaining more because things are getting worse (except on public transport, where they certainly are getting worse), but because, having been offered slightly better choices, they have discovered their own power.

In the real golden age of appalling services, the 1960s and '70s, complaining was widely thought to be a lost cause. Protest to a nationalised industry, even with the most convincing arguments, was utterly futile. Early

in our married life, when we still had the time and energy for such things, my husband and I had a year-long dispute with the electricity board over an absurdly high bill. We demonstrated that it was mathematically impossible for us to have used the amount of electricity recorded by our meter in a single quarter even if we had left all of our appliances and lights on for 24 hours of every day. Although this was in a period of voltage reductions which the board admitted could cause meters to behave erratically, the board was adamant that we should pay the extortionate bill. Threats to take them to court were laughed off: "Any solicitor will tell you that you can never win against a nationalised industry." How about complaining to our MP? "Nothing an MP can say will make any difference," they crowed. And they were right. The old nationalised public utilities were a law unto themselves.

Now that producers and regulators of utilities are institutionally

separate, there is at least some kind of logic in directing criticism at them: one is not appealing for justice to the very people who are doing the cheating. Regulators may be fairly powerless as long as those services are in the hands of monopolies, but even if British Telecom is only being energetically "gummed" by a toothless Ofcom — rather than savaged by competitors — consumers do have an outlet for their frustrations. Having learnt the habit, and having been emboldened by ten years of a political fashion for self-determination, they are carping away with the best of them.

Only now that we have all learned to whine for Britain has the awful truth become undeniable: the purveyors of British goods and services (even those dealing in the most competitive markets) despise their customers. So vehement is this loathing that many shops would prefer to do no business at all rather than demean themselves by kowtowing to public demand. Huge numbers of small

shops are closing in the recession, and yet I scour London in vain for a shop which recognises the market for moderately priced classic fashion for grown women. Although a majority of the population is now over 40, and although older people have far more spending money than the young, store after deserted store offers an identical range of ludicrously youth-oriented gear being sold to the accompaniment of cacophonous pop music. What good would it do to complain about this to an 18-year-old sales assistant?

Occasionally a foreign retailer causes a mild ripple in the smug closed circle of British retailing — a European supermarket group offers inexpensive food in a no-frills setting — but the big chains sit tight, knowing that their hegemony won't really be threatened. Good old British companies such as M&S and Boots are still trying to do the decent thing by their loyal constituencies. But elsewhere contempt for the public is so deeply ingrained that it does not even require a conspiracy to enforce it. Britain has a long way to go before it learns to take seriously the desires of ordinary people. And that kind of change will take more than shouting into the wind.

## Can a Christian vote Tory?

As the parties squabble about tax, Richard Harries ponders Jesus's enduring parable of the rich man

In forthright fashion, Mrs Thatcher once told the Church of Scotland that the first necessity is to create wealth. Only then, she said, will we have money to invest and respond to the many calls for help. The message aroused some ire in the Scottish Church, but Mrs Thatcher stands in an honourable tradition. John Wesley wrote: "Gain all you can; save all you can; give all you can", and Clement of Alexandria in the second century, who taught a similar doctrine, has been dubbed the first Thatcherite.

Alexandria was the wealthiest city in the Roman world and in time a number of rich young men began to be attracted by the Christian faith. But they were brought up short by the story of the rich man in the Gospels who was told by Jesus to give away all his money to the poor and then to come and follow him. Clement wrote his work *Who then is the rich man that shall be saved?* to help them find a place within the Church of the poor.

Clement argued that it is our inner disposition, our attitude to money that matters. If this is right, we can live with our wealth and use it for good. If it is wrong, even if we give all our wealth away, we shall be eaten up inside. But is this what Jesus meant? Is it this that makes it easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God?

Some thought not. Disillusioned with the laxity and compromises of a church that was rapidly gaining adherents, they went off into the deserts of Egypt to live in poverty and day by day trust of God. For Jesus had said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (Luke 6, 20). Yet, according to the more familiar version of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, 1, Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God." Luke's version suggests material poverty, while Matthew's suggests a spiritual quality. It seems rather important to find out what is meant.

My own view is that the Beatitudes are best understood against the background of the psalms, which are full of references to the poor and needy. In the psalms, the poor person is one who loses out in the world as it is, not only through material poverty but through opposition, harassment and persecution. Nevertheless this person, very often the subject of the psalm, goes on putting his or her whole trust in God and expressing the hope that God will act to put right all that is wrong. In short, the poor of the psalms cannot be equated simply with either a sociological or religious category. The poor person expresses trust and hope, but his plight is very real.

There is both good news and bad news here for the rich. The good news is that there is a possibility for all of us, whoever we are, to hear the message of God's love for us personally. All we have to do is to come before God conscious of our need, our emptiness, brokenness, egotism or shallowness. And it is the experience of every pastor that there are moments when the facade of the most complacent, self-satisfied and self-righteous people crumbles.

Conscious of our own need, we become like Lear in the storm, aware of the needs of others and estricken by our own previous indifference. "O, I have ta'en / too little care of this! Take physic, pomp; / Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel."

The hard part is that in order to go on hearing the good news we have to obey the Gospel by responding to that need. For in the New Testament, Christ's offer of God's unconditional love goes hand-in-hand with the absolute standards of the Kingdom of God are

entering, to love others without limit. And this, in today's world, means being obedient to Christ in the capitalist world in which we find ourselves.

One of the most important rediscoveries of the Reformation was the lay vocation. This means that it is as Christian to be a banker as a bishop, as godly to be a stockbroker as a nun — if we are sincerely committed to following



King Lear in the storm: despite our guilt we can serve Christ and Mammon

the risen Lord into the companies, markets, exchanges and parliaments of the world. If we do this, we shall certainly come up against vested interests, malevolence, greed and the sheer will to power, not only in individuals but in institutionalised forms. Those who follow this path may lose out, but they will have begun to rank among the poor who are blessed. A market economy is in some re-

the rich young man. But a vague feeling of guilt is useless. If we think the dilemma through in Christian terms, we can be committed to serving Christ in the capitalist system and to making it serve those most in need.

The author is Bishop of Oxford. His book *Is there a Gospel for the Rich?* will be published by Mowbrays in May.

...and moreover

### CRAIG BROWN

It is always a very great pleasure to go to dinner at Brian Walden's house, and last week was no exception.

Of course, one must always allow a reasonable amount of time for getting into the house, so I arrived quarter of an hour early, at 7.45 pm. I pressed the button on the walkie-talkie device by the front door. His distinctive voice rang out.

"Simple question to start with," he said. "Who's there?"

"It's Craig," I said.

"Craig?" he said. "Craig? That is, if I may say so — and I feel sure that a lot of people at home must be saying the same thing — a rather vague sort of reply. There is, they will be saying to themselves, of that I have no doubt, an illustrious actress, Wendy Craig. Is she outside? Or could it be the original member of that distinguished pop group Bros, who later split with the group citing musical differences? It all seems very wishy-washy to me. Perhaps — and this is only a suggestion — you would care to be more specific, to stand full square and say, loud and clear, as so many people are begging you to say, 'Yes, he's right. I owe it to myself and I owe it to the country as a whole to state my full name, clearly and unequivocally.' Don't you think that's what you should be saying now? Don't you? Don't you? Don't you?"

"Actually, it's Craig Brown," I said. "You invited me."

"We'll go into that claim a little later if we may," he replied.

"But for now, I think that everyone will be delighted, if perhaps a little surprised, that you have finally come out with a full statement about what one can only call the eerie mirage of fudge surrounding your name. So, if I can summarise your position as it now stands, and please correct me if I'm wrong. You are not Wendy Craig — you have made that crystal clear, for which I thank you — and you are not Craig, the original member of the pop group Bros. Am I right so far?"

By this stage, I was growing very cold indeed, so I tried to keep my answer as short and straightforward as possible.

"Yes," I said. "Now let's investigate precisely what you mean by 'yes'." he replied. "Let's get this absolutely clear: you are asking us to believe that 'Yes' you are not Wendy Craig — rather a roundabout way of putting it, many people at home might be thinking, but that is your privilege — or are you saying, as I think you are trying to say, 'Yes, all things considered, I am in fact Wendy Craig'?"

"No." "Well, you seem to have changed your mind over that one, and many people must be wondering if you really know who you are, but time's running out so let's move on to another issue of major importance..."

It was not until just before ten o'clock that I finally gained admission to the house. By 11.30, all the other guests, many of them coughing and sniffing

from hours spent in the cold, had finally managed to gain entry, and so we all sat down to dinner.

Pouring the wine rather delayed things, alas. "It seems to me," Brian said to each of us, a bottle in either hand, "that you have a clear choice of two stark options — or possibly three. Let me put them to you as simply as I can, so that — forgive me — even you can understand them. On the one hand, you can have a glass of wine from the bottle in my right hand. In the bottle, that wine is red, and most people — many of them leading commentators — would argue that it will undoubtedly continue to be red when it reaches the glass. On the other hand, you might say to yourself, 'No, I don't want red wine. Red wine is not what I want. What I want — despite everything — is white wine. White wine is what I want.' And then there is a third option: unusual, perhaps, but an option nevertheless. You could have a mixture of red wine and white wine. An experiment, you might say. Before I ask you to state your choice, I would ask whether that is a fair summary of the options open to you?"

We finished dinner — very pleasant, if a trifle cold — shortly before eight o'clock the following morning. The next day, I rang to thank him. "It's Craig ringing to thank you," I said. "Let's get this absolutely clear," he replied. "Craig who? It's a funny thing about Brian. Sometimes it's as if one just isn't getting through."

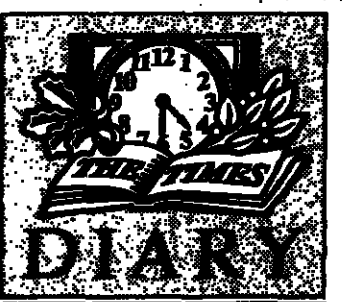
### The Firm goes on show

AFTER much agonising, the organisers of the "Sovereign" exhibition, the centrepiece of the Queen's 40th anniversary celebrations, decided yesterday to go ahead with this week's opening, despite the death of the father of the Princess of Wales. The decision means that the press view of the exhibition at the V&A will coincide with Earl Spencer's funeral on Wednesday. The organisers have decided that the clash is regrettable but that it is not practical — or necessary — to change the arrangements.

Buckingham Palace was consulted before the decision to go ahead. "Fortunately the main opening is the day after the funeral," says John Julius Norwich, the curator. "We wouldn't want to offend the palace or anyone else." The former House of Commons speaker Bernard Weatherill will formally open the exhibition on Thursday, and the public will have access from Friday.

The exhibition has already proved accident-prone, and at least one item has been removed from the display after objections. A film montage illustrating the difficult relationship between the Royal Family and tabloid newspapers has been withdrawn. It included several examples of the headline writer's art, including references to "Fergie, the Duchess of York". The Palace objected even before the news of the separation became public.

Since the separation, a further examination of the exhibition's Fergiana was carried out — with the result that the only remaining references to the Duchess of York are on a postage stamp and in the old family portrait. We couldn't exactly cut her out of group photo-



graphs, and nor would we want to," says Norwich.

However, the changes have not been ordered by the Queen, for she has not even seen the exhibition. She declined the offer of a preview, despite having lent a variety of rarely seen royal possessions — including clothes mothballed for 40 years, which, it is said, she herself has not set eyes on in all those years.

● Screaming Lord Sutch's party manifesto has turned into something of a pig's ear with its pledge of "a glass of beer and a ham sandwich" for the entire nation when the Monster Raving Loony Party is elected. Tony King, the party's campaign manager, has been forced to backtrack on the promise, telling a deeply offended Jewish Chronicle that the ham will be optional rather than compulsory.

### Home from home

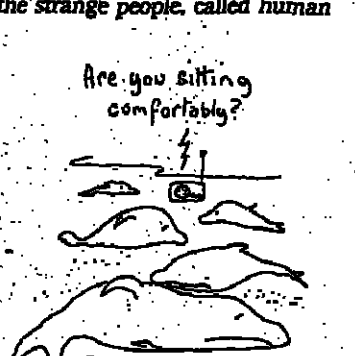
THE removal of Charles Althorp, the new Earl Spencer, to the ancestral home, Althorp House, means he is leaving behind a smaller but important house: the Falconry, a lodge in the grounds of the main house which he and his wife Victoria have decorated in Victorian gothic style. A straight swap, with his stepmother Ratne, Countess

Spencer, taking over the flagstoned lodge is a possibility, although it was suggested yesterday that Bognor Regis is a more likely future home for her.

The lodge is furnished with items Althorp has been able to rescue in midnight raids on the main house before they could be sold. His degree in modern history — "a good second," says Angus Macintyre, his former tutor at Magdalen College, Oxford — has given him a genuine feel for his new role. "He was a fine scholar with a deep and genuine interest in modern history and his family's role in it."

### Then I'll begin

GROWN men and women were whisked back to their childhoods by the Green party's radio election broadcast yesterday in which the actress Glynis Brooks delivered an unashamed imitation of Daphne Oxenford's *Listen With Mother* stories. Voters under 30 might well ask who? Those old enough to remember were enthralled by the matronly tones telling the tale of the strange people, called human



beings, who managed to pollute their nice home, known as card. But Daphne Oxenford, was unimpressed. The Greens, she felt had been patronising — some

thing she always avoided, in more than 20 years of reading to the nation's children. "Listen With Mother" only works if you ask 'Are you sitting comfortably?' and don't talk down to your audience."

### Healthy audience

HOW good to learn that real life can still intrude into the perfect world of the spin-doctors. Not that William Waldegrave necessarily saw it like that at the weekend when he turned up to speak at a school hall in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. The doors were locked; the caretaker was nowhere to be found. Tory aides were left wondering whether he was out canvassing for Labour or had simply gone to the pub.

But Waldegrave, mindful of John Major's demand that ministers get on their soapboxes, was determined to speak, and demanded that local party chiefs find an alternative. Back at Rugby and Kenilworth Tory headquarters, the secretary of state was given a drink while officials hastily worked the phones. They eventually came up with the Muzmaya Latvian Centre in the village of Wolston.

There then arose the problem of finding an audience. As Waldegrave set out across the Warwickshire countryside, complete with a union flag to drape over the stage, party officials frantically phoned local Tory members. By the time Waldegrave arrived, an audience of 40 loyalists was waiting to greet him. They gave him, by all accounts, the biggest round of applause of the campaign to date.

● Now we have a politically correct board game, courtesy of the Young Women's Christian Association. "Discoveries" is "non-competitive, non-sectarian and non-threatening", explains Elizabeth Sharples of the YWCA.





## NO NEED TO EXAGGERATE

For the third time in as many months the Conservatives have made taxation an election issue. Having twice failed to move public opinion with claims that Labour will produce a 10p increase in income tax, the Tories have raised the figure to 12.2p. This is an exaggeration of what Labour would have to do to meet its various spending commitments within existing borrowing levels, as recent *Times* assessments of John Smith's alternative budget have concluded. It is not, however, an exaggeration of an issue that symbolises the wide philosophical gulf that still exists between the main parties.

A future Labour government's ability to increase public spending will depend far less on its manifesto commitments than on the future rate of economic growth. This is what should be exercising the Tories. The party has apparently decided that it should not be seen to "defend the rich", even if Mr Smith's real victims were not so much the "rich" but more the middle classes. This was a questionable judgment. For every voter who earns £22,000 there should be many others who hope one day to do so, at least in the kind of opportunity society that John Major's positive campaign was supposed to evoke. Polls now suggest that over half the electorate have got the impression, right or wrong, that they would pay more tax under Labour.

What Mr Major has to do now is emphasise that Labour's policy of attacking the wealthier voters would destroy the jobs of ordinary workers and damage the economy as a whole. This may seem a tall order, but it is the message conservative parties have to argue in every election against socialist the world over. The simplest and oldest argument against massive redistribution is the most persuasive, especially at a time of recession. The richest 10 per cent of the population dominates spending on cars, consumer durables, recreation and housing. If affluent families suffer large overnight cuts in disposable income, their spending on

these and many other goods and services will fall abruptly.

Ultimately, the poorer members of society who benefit from redistributive expenditure will make up for the loss in spending. This is why conventional economic models suggest that redistributive taxes tend slightly to increase demand in the medium term. But conventional economic models are not having a good recession. Common sense suggests a risk that people who suffer big losses in income will cut their spending faster than those who enjoy small gains. Even if the two adjustments take place simultaneously, the different spending patterns of the rich and poor in society would guarantee a period of dislocation. The sacred Jaguar worker may find a job making Minis and the redundant waiter might become a hospital porter, but this will take time.

None of the small incentives and public spending measures in Mr Smith's "recovery plan" is likely to compensate in the short term for the loss of consumer demand implied by his higher tax proposals, let alone for the probable fall in house prices in the South East. What further damage might be done by Labour's policies — notably the surge in pay claims initiated by the minimum wage, and Sunday's "green light" to public sector employees — is pure guesswork. But never has there been a more dangerous time to find out.

In the midst of the longest recession and the worst housing slump in a generation, the electorate is more worried about job security and rapid economic recovery than any other issue. Whatever responsibility attaches to the Tories for contributing to recession, an opportunity and an obligation remains for them to capitalise on it. The effects of Labour's tax plans may be nothing like as dire as Tory spokesmen are claiming, but they would be dire none the less. They would not cure the recession. They would probably prolong and deepen it.

## DISSIDENT SIBERIA

Siberia, a tundra of snows and sorrows, has for centuries been Russia's colony and its prison. Now the Siberians want to throw off the shackles. Delegates meeting in Krasnoyarsk have accused Moscow of systematically plundering the resources of their sparse land, despoiling the fragile ecology, expropriating the wealth that could have transformed an area bigger than Europe into a viable and prosperous nation. On the eve of a treaty that was intended to give new democratic legitimacy to the Russian federation that sprawls across 11 time zones, Moscow rule faces revolt in Siberia.

The rebellion follows the declarations of independence by Chechens and Tatars, and the demands by dozens of agencies of local government throughout Russia, large and small, for the right to pass their own laws and set their own taxes. Forget the fissiparous Soviet empire. Even the lesser Russian one, created by tears and terrorised by Bolsheviks, is falling apart. The Stalinist monolith cannot survive the spread of democracy and self-determination.

The alarm in Moscow is palpable. Most of Russia's wealth and collateral for the huge aid it now wants from the West is in valuable minerals, including gold and diamonds, lying beneath the permafrost of Siberia. Nationalists accuse President Yeltsin of recklessly failing to prevent the country's dissolution, just as President Gorbachev was accused of losing the Soviet Union. The prospect of dozens of new mini-republics, each with the trappings of statehood and the irritant of ancient ethnic grievances, looks like ushering in decades of political turmoil, putting paid to Russian hopes of remaining a world power.

Russia, like the Soviet Union, cannot be saved by force. After 70 years of centralising communism after centuries of colonial rule, the Siberians and the other inhabitants of the Asian landmass are deeply distrustful of Moscow. They want freedom to govern themselves. Having never known devolution or any form of genuine autonomy they

believe that nothing short of outright independence will do. In a sense they are right. Communism cannot be partially dismantled. The only way ordinary people will learn how to make a market economy work is to begin afresh at the bottom, with individuals free to till their own land, run their own businesses, sell their own produce.

Such markets, however, must be fairly policed. A legal framework must guarantee access and protect property and individuals. The principle of subsidiarity is as important in Siberia as it is in the European Community. Economic and political decisions should be taken at the lowest level possible. But this does not mean returning to feudal economics, or condemning any level of government larger than the city state.

The myriad of ethnic, religious and tribal communities across the Russian Federation will never advance if they do not co-operate in those areas where a modern state needs general agreement: currency, transport, the environment, communications and security, to name a few. The development under communism of unified energy networks, huge regional centres and a social infrastructure that cannot easily be broken apart makes voluntary political co-operation all but essential if Russia is to be spared endless demarcation squabbles and ethnic rivalry. Frontier posts and customs tariffs hinder rather than help local enterprise.

Many borders will have to be redrawn. The self-proclaimed Dniestr republic of Russian-speakers does not want, like the rest of Moldavia, to unite with Romania. But self-determination will not be guaranteed by cartography. Too many peoples are too mixed to be separated by a new apartheid. Mr Yeltsin's government in Moscow should be ready to grant whatever demands for devolution come from his ramshackle empire. It is then up to the peoples themselves to decide in what manner they wish to trade and treat with each other. Only this is Russia, as a larger geographical unit, likely to rebuild itself as a pluralist, capitalist democracy.

## BESS UNMASKED

Computer graphics analysis in the United States claims to have resolved the question of the identity of Shakespeare. It has long been thought absurd to suppose that a provincial glover's son, with only a grammar school education, could have written those sophisticated poems and plays, showing such deep knowledge not only of human nature, but also of courtly etiquette and foreign travel. The surviving images of Shakespeare are equally disappointing for snobs. They are all different, and most of them make Shakespeare look lower-middle-class, a bit like a well-lubricated silver ring bookmaker.

Much the most aristocratic of them is the one printed as the frontispiece to the First Folio edition of the plays, published in the year of his death. This was put together by Shakespeare's colleagues and approved by his wife, who must have known what Shakespeare looked like. The Folio portrait was engraved by a young artist called Martin Droeshout, and is strikingly different from the others, with its long nose, chiselled eyes, high forehead, and magisterial air. Critics have commended "the searching look of the eyes understanding everything, what a forehead, what a brain!" He looks faintly familiar. The American computer analysts have decided that he is indeed familiar.

They have been comparing the portrait datum by infinitesimal datum with the images of all of Shakespeare's contemporaries, asking whose image formed the model for the First Folio picture. Their calculations have come up with an unexpected answer: that the Folio portrait is not Francis Bacon, or Ben Jonson, or William Stanley, or

Edward de Vere, or Emilia Lanier, or even another man called Shakespeare. They say that the portrait looks most like Elizabeth I.

And even unstatistically they have a point. That is why the Folio face seems familiar. Those wary eyes stare imperiously and that aristocratic beak impends majestically out of all the portraits of the first Elizabeth. Computers indicate, statistically to their satisfaction, that Elizabeth was the model for the Folio portrait of Shakespeare. It is now left to the feminist literary fanatics to carry the argument to its logical conclusion.

Why should Shakespeare's friends illustrate the First Folio with a coded portrait of Elizabeth in male dress and moustache except to convey the cryptic message that she wrote the works inside? Robert Graves demonstrated that a woman wrote the *Odessey* because of the close knowledge that epic shows of domestic matters such as weaving and bed-making, ignored in the macho *Iliad*. Shakespeare's account of the burdens of monarchy and the perils of treason have the ring of experience.

Surely nobody but a deeply romantic and frustrated woman could have written so movingly about women in love of all ages, from Juliet and Rosalind to Cleopatra and Hermione. Elizabeth I may have had the body of a weak and feeble woman, but she also had the wit and learning of a master hack. No woman, much less a queen, could admit to writing for the disreputable theatre. So did she use camouflage? Did the Dark Lady in fact have red hair? If Elizabeth I did not write Shakespeare, she missed the opportunity of her life.

## Urban decay as party priority

From the Archdeacon of Southwark and others

Sir, We have been appointed by our respective dioceses to monitor the way the Church and our society have responded to the detailed recommendations of the Church of England's *Faith in the City* report. That report defined 1,122 parishes as "urban priority areas" (UPAs), each of them characterised by economic decline, physical decay and social disintegration.

We wish to place on record that, whilst the Church has responded in many remarkable ways to the needs of people living in UPAs, the overall situation within them has deteriorated in the past seven years.

Economic decline has deepened: long-term unemployment has risen; the numbers in or on the margins of poverty have risen; the value of benefits have fallen, especially for those under 25. Physical decay has worsened: whether it be the state of our schools and hospitals and housing stock, or the condition of roads, parks, open spaces and libraries, the overwhelming experience is one of grievous neglect.

Social disintegration has escalated and is everywhere apparent — in the periodic urban eruptions, in the huge increase in crime especially in crimes of violence, in the prevalence of child abuse and domestic violence, in the crumbling services on which people depend, such as law and advice centres; and supremely in the massive rise of homelessness across the country. On almost every conceivable index, people in UPAs are in a worse situation than they were in 1985.

At a more profound level, however, we wish to declare our deep conviction that this deterioration testifies to a bankrupt social vision which has guided our economic and social policy over the past decade. As we approach the election, we need to acknowledge and reassess the moral and ethical basis of our institutions and to go beyond the destructive individualism which has so corroded our sense of shared humanity and common destiny.

Unless this ethical and ultimately spiritual dimension is addressed by each of the political parties, then no amount of tinkering with our institutions, multiplying choices or increasing resources, will address the needs of those living in the UPAs of our land. There must be more to life than shopping and television and all the political parties have a duty to spell out what their social vision is, how it will resolve the grave social injustice which continues to mar our country and how it will unify its people in a common social hope.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS BARTLES-SMITH  
(Diocese of Southwark),  
JOHN M. AUSTIN (London),  
PETER ATKINSON (Oxford),  
BRIAN BARNES (Cambridge),  
RICHARD FREEMAN (Rochester),  
ANN MORISY (London),  
DAVID PARTRIDGE (Portsmouth),  
CHRIS RICE (Winchester),  
DAVID RUDD (St Albans),  
MARTIN WALLACE (Chelmsford),  
1a Dog Kennel Hill,  
East Dulwich, SE22.  
March 26.

## Simmel treat

From Mrs Anne V. Wood

Sir, Mr Peter Beer (letter, March 28) may like to know that the children of Chobham (my seven-year-old daughter included) offered slices of Simmel cake to their mothers after yesterday's family communion service.

I spent part of Saturday afternoon baking the cake, but am not sure which of the kinds described in Mr Beer's letter it most closely resembled; I just hope that it did not remind anyone of our local speciality — Chobham armout!

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE V. WOOD,  
Whinfield, Chertsey Road,  
Chobham, Surrey,  
March 30.

From Mrs S. C. Littlewood

Sir, What dull Simmel cakes Mr Beer describes. I was always taught to make them with spices, currants, candied peel, etc., with a slice of marzipan through the centre and one on the top, surmounted by 11 balls of marzipan to represent the apostles minus Judas Iscariot.

Yours nostalgically,  
S. C. LITTLEWOOD,  
14 Temeside,  
Ludlow, Shropshire.

## UK's fine-art trade

From Mr Antony Mair

Sir, Sarah Jane Checkland's article on the current Portuguese initiative regarding a levy of value-added tax on antiques imported into the European Community (March 20) gave welcome coverage to this issue but failed to disclose the full implications.

In 1991 the UK exported £1.45 billion worth of fine arts and antiques. Imports in 1991 amounted to £1.17 billion. The principal countries of both origin and destination were the United States and Switzerland. These happen also to be rival centres for the fine-art trade.

Virtually all the items covered by these figures would fall within the ambit of the Portuguese proposal. The consequences are twofold.

First, the imposition of VAT on imports into the Community, and its

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Election facts, figures and fantasies on the economy

From Mr Roger Graffey-Smith

Sir, It seems to me that the evidence so far of voters' intentions underlines their fear of redundancy and the oppression of the present recession. However, it may be for many of them, they may vote Labour simply because they believe the propaganda that a socialist government will somehow save their jobs and make it all better. They only intend to "lead" their vote to Labour for the short term.

What they are forgetting is the parallel with the 1974 election. Then thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers voted Labour solely to stop the agony of the three-day week induced by the miners' strike. While the strike was ended, the period of socialist mismanagement which followed was utterly devastating to many of those small businesses.

The disincentives contained in the Labour party's fiscal intentions will only prolong the recession indefinitely. "Lending" his vote *pro tem* to get out of the present hole is about the most short-sighted action any trader could take.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER GRAFFEY-SMITH,  
Graffey-Smith and Associates,  
133 Thomas More House,  
Barbican, EC2,  
March 23.

From Mr Philip Eaton

Sir, I wonder whether the numerous businessmen who have recently contributed to your letters page, and in particular those who have supported the Conservative party, are seriously aware of the comparative figures of Conservative and Labour governments for equity returns, interest rates and inflation for each of the periods between elections since 1966.

According to figures produced by the economic unit of James Capel & Co the period of best equity return was 1974-9 under Labour at an annualised rate of 55 per cent. The best achieved under Conservatives was 39.7 per cent in 1983-7.

Interest rates were at their highest average levels in two periods of Conservative government 1979-83 (13.4 per cent) and 1987-91 (12.4 per cent), with the Labour average over the 25 years at 8.6 per cent and the Conservative average at 11.4 per cent.

Only on inflation have Labour governments done less well, their worst average being 15.8 per cent

(1974-9) compared with the Conservative's worst average of 12.2 per cent (1979-83).

It must do great harm to the financial standing of our country both at home and abroad and to our exchange rate when unjustified and misinformed alarm is raised about the impact on the economy of this, that or the other next government.

Do our businessmen know their business?

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP EATON,  
Scotmansfield, Burway,  
Church Street, Shropshire,  
March 25.

From Mr W. J. Ablett

Sir, May I draw your attention to a passage from the Liberal Democrats' basic guide to local government finance and budgets for Liberal councillors, *Budgeting for Real*, by Andrew Stunell.

Of course, anything you can do to build up your financial reserves helps, because they earn interest at the bank — which is extra money you can spend. Improving your "cash-flow" can have the same effect — either increasing your bank balance (and so increasing interest income) or reducing your borrowing (and cutting your interest payments).

One Liberal council saves £130,000 p.a. by credit management, by paying bills as late as possible.

Presumably, those businessmen who support the Liberal Democrat economic policies endorse this guidance.

Apparently to condone deliberate delays in making payments on accounts rendered, when one has received goods/services, is nothing less than dishonest. It is such practices which have forced many businesses into closure.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledged this problem of delayed payments in his Budget. His proposal that all sub-contractors involved with government contracts will be paid within a specified period has been widely welcomed.

Yours faithfully,  
W. J. ABLETT,  
67 Torquay Road,  
Chelmsford, Essex,  
March 24.

From Mr A. S. Owen

Sir, Looking at the figures compiled by KPMG Peat Marwick published in *The Times* on March 17, it appears that Labour's tax proposals can produce rather curious or even

anomalous results. Under Labour's proposals a married couple both working with husband earning £20,000 and the wife £15,000 with one child, will have a net income of £26,358 including child benefit.

On the other hand, a couple where the husband alone is working and earning £35,000 but there are two children will have a net income of £24,768. Thus the family with an identical gross income but potentially greater commitments than the other will have a net income of £1,590 less.

Going up the scale of earnings the differential appears to increase significantly. Thus, where a husband and wife are earning £40,000 and £20,000 respectively their net income would apparently be £41,215, whereas if the husband alone was earning £60,000 the family's net income would be £35,690 — a differential of £5,525 between couples with the same total gross income.

I suppose that some differential in these circumstances is inevitable. On the Conservative Budget figures the differentials in the cases cited would apparently be £418 and £1,952 respectively.

It might be argued that there are too few families adversely affected by the position to make the point of any political significance and in any event families on the level of net income concerned will manage anyway. None the less, I would suggest that the effect of Labour's proposals is, in this respect, inequitable.

Yours faithfully,  
A. S. OWEN,  
41 Corder Road,  
Ipswich, Suffolk,  
March 23.

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, Mr Kinnock has said (report, March 24) that if necessary he will introduce credit controls, initially in the housing sector; if these controls are extended to consumer-spending as has happened previously, the country will be back to staggo.

This in the past has devastated industry; manufacturers' order books suddenly disappeared, confidence evaporated and investment lagged. Will the politicians never learn?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN MORROW,  
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1,  
March 25.

Business letters, page 23

## Planning 'anarchy'

From Mr Frank S. Vine

Sir, Your article "Modernised homes ruin historic towns" (March 26) must strike responsive chords in all who have seen and suffered the effect of tasteless street-scene development over the past decade.

But should we be surprised? The tone seems to have been set as long ago as November 1980 by the then (and present) secretary of state for the environment. In his notorious Planning Circular 22/80 we read: "Planning authorities... should not... impose their tastes on developers simply because they believe them to be superior". Moreover, planning authorities were discouraged from compelling developers "to adopt designs which are unpopular with their customers or clients".

Could clearer encouragement have been given to the cause of planning anarchy?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK S. VINE,  
Springfield, High Street,  
Salford, Bristol.

## TV repeats

From Mr Will Wyatt

Sir, May I clarify the BBC's policy on prime-time repeats (report, March 25)? What we are doing is to reduce — not to outlaw — repeats and American series in peak time on BBC-1.

As Melinda Winslow indicates in her feature "Auntie goes into the risk business" (Media, March 25), this is being achieved by stepping up production of BBC drama and entertainment in the wake of savings from greater efficiency.

This is a policy of transition rather than abolition. Repeats, imaginatively and sensibly scheduled, and the best television from overseas will continue to have a legitimate place on our two networks.

Yours faithfully,  
WILL WYATT (Managing Director Network Television),  
BBC Television,  
Television Centre,  
Wood Lane, W12.

These persons' livelihood is necessarily under threat, as are the invisible earnings deriving from attendance in London of international buyers.

The proposal has been put forward by the Portuguese presidency against the Commission's advice, and against a background of near unanimity for a more palatable alternative. It has become apparent from contacts made by UK dealers and auctioneers with their colleagues in other member states that there has been minimal local consultation. That a proposal can even get this far is a dramatic illustration of the democratic deficit and lack of true accountability in the present Community institutions.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY MAIR (Legal adviser to the UK fine-art trade working party),  
Stephenson Harwood,  
1 St Paul's Churchyard, ECA,  
March 23.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

## National park threat

From Mr Gerald Haythornthwaite

Sir, Having selected the most environmentally destructive method of desulphurising power station flue gases by the limestone/gypsum process, using 310,000 tons of limestone per year per power station, those responsible now threaten to maximise the environmental damage.

Limestone quarries around Buxton have been selected to desulphurise the power station at Ratcliffe-on-Soar. Between Buxton and Ratcliffe lies the Peak District national park. If the limestone is carried by lorry some 70 thundering vehicles would daily invade the national park and its townships and villages.

The alternative would be transportation by rail using one to two trains a day, which is being urged by the Peak Park joint planning board. The minister in the Department of Energy has replied to the board:

I do not believe that it would have been proper for the secretary of state to instruct the company first to obtain its limestone from one supplier or from sources with rail connections, as this is primarily a commercial matter for the company.

It is surely intolerable that marginal commercial interests should override the purposes of a national park established for the preservation of its natural beauty and its quiet enjoyment by the public.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD HAYTHORNTHWAITE  
(Honorary Secretary),  
Sheffield, Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch,  
Council for the Protection of Rural England,  
22 Endcliffe Crescent,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,  
March 23.

## Off the rails

From Mr Timothy West

Sir, Enough has been written about British Rail's insistence on referring to the passengers as "customers", as if the rolling stock were being offered for sale rather than for purposes of conveyance; but now there's this new reluctance to use the seminal word "train".

Instead we have "the service now standing at platform two"; "we apologise for the late arrival of this service"; and, last week, a guard's announcement over the intercom, "Please do not open the doors until the service has come to a complete standstill". (The fact that this occurred on a Sunday morning lent the words a certain piquancy.)

I feel strongly about this, having been a service enthusiast all my life. As a small boy I used to play services up and down the hall until I was old enough to become a service-spotter. This may in part be due to my actor parents having met in a production of Arnold Ridley's famous thriller, *The Ghost Service*.

Yours faithfully,  
TIMOTHY WEST,  
46 North Side,  
Wandsworth Common, SW18,  
March 20.







## OBITUARIES

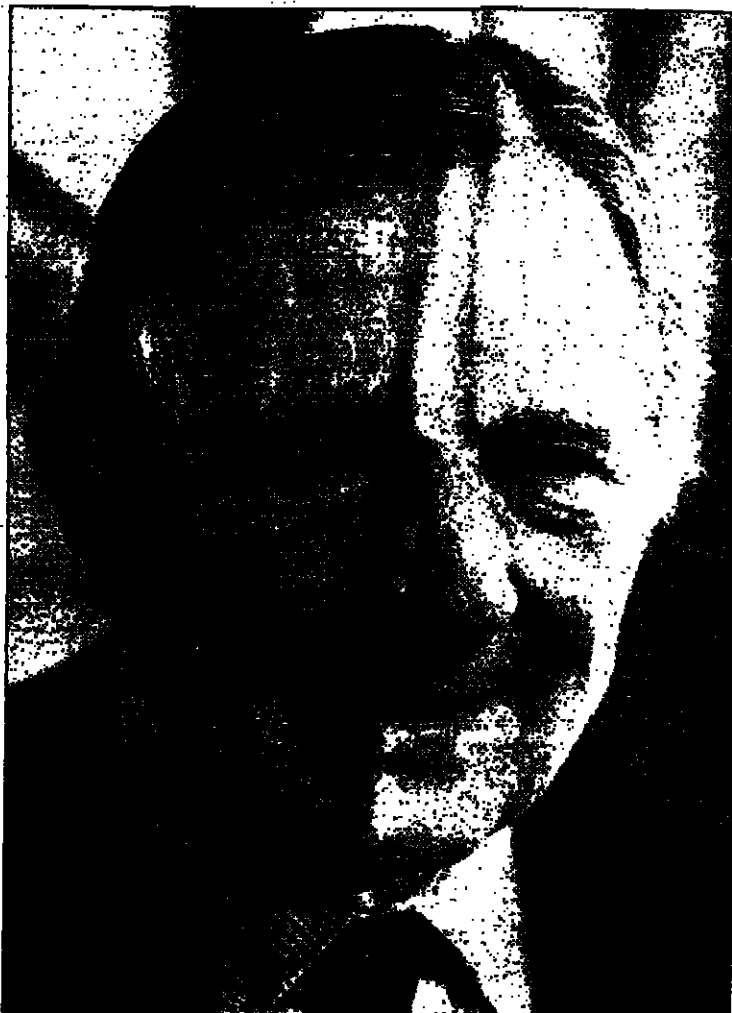
## MICHAEL LEES

Michael Lees, SOE officer and Serbophile, died at Milton Abbas on March 23 aged 70. He was born at Lytchett Minster, Dorset, on May 17, 1921.

MICHAEL Lees went directly from school into the second world war and the rest of his life was to be determined by the experience. He came of a Dorset landed family with a military tradition. He was the grandson of Sir Elliott Lees, Bt, a former MP for Oldham. His own father's career was cut short by premature death on service in Nigeria, and he was brought up by his mother, a Yorkshire Raddiffe. After education at Ampleforth Michael Lees joined the Dorset Yeomanry and in India transferred to a parachute battalion which was then sent to the Middle East. In Cairo he heard about the Special Operations Executive and wangled himself into that organisation with its promise of exotic and unregulated action. In June 1943, at the age of 22, he parachuted into Yugoslavia as leader of a mission to the Chetnik guerrillas commanded by General Mihailovic. He was meant to replace an SOE officer captured by the Bulgarians, who occupied much of Serbia on behalf of the Germans. Within 48 hours of landing his mission was almost wiped out by Bulgarians who savagely murdered some of his men as they lay wounded.

Lees's force was reconstituted and ordered to attack the Nis-Salonika railway, a vital German link. At this time Mihailovic's commanders were under orders not to undertake actions which might result in further heavy reprisals against Serb civilians but to await the day of a national rising. Despite this, Lees persuaded the commanders in his area to support him in blowing up two long sections of the line, and in the derailment of six trains.

Lees was then hampered by the failure of SOE to drop him the supplies he needed. Britain had decided to withdraw support from Mihailovic and switch it entirely to Tito's Partisans. It was an action which Michael Lees criticised bitterly. In December 1943 he was



ordered to suspend operations and pull out with all his fellow officers from the Mihailovic operation. SOE did not want him in Yugoslavia any longer. But it was to be five nerve-racking months before most of them were evacuated.

At SOE headquarters in Italy Lees met Gwen Johnson, a FANY officer, and two months later married her in Bari cathedral. After the honeymoon he parachuted into Piedmont to join Italian guerrillas. After seeing some brisk action he was asked to escort two delegates from the

Piedmontese liberation committee with an urgent report for the allies. Air pickup was impossible so Lees set out to lead the party into France over the Maritime Alps and across the line where Germans were fighting Americans. On the way he wiped out a German artillery post, and nearly stumbled into a minefield. But he got the delegates safely into allied territory — and out to Italy.

In January 1945 Lees parachuted on his third mission — to an Italian guerrilla division in the Appennine

mountains west of Reggio Emilia. For the next two months he helped to prepare the division for the spring offensive, fighting off German and Italian fascist attempts to destroy it. In March he planned and led an attack on a German army corps HQ in a villa at Albinea. For this the Italians were joined by an SAS detachment commanded by Major Roy Farran, complete with piper. The attack was successful but Lees was brought down by four bullets on the staircase of the villa. Severely wounded and unable to walk, he was hidden for several days in a barn before the Italians could get him back into guerrilla territory, using an on-drawn manure cart with a false bottom. He was picked up finally by a mountain terrace by an Italian pilot in a captured Storch spotter-plane and finally brought to a British hospital in Naples.

Lees was twice recommended for the DSO and once for the MC, but no award was made, nor was he promoted major. A series of operations failed to restore a severed sciatic nerve, and for the rest of his life he suffered disability and pain. He went into business and became managing director of an international company in London, but in 1971 his disability forced him into early retirement. He then took up cattle and fruit farming in Ireland.

In 1950, during one of his recurrent spells in hospital, Lees had written an account of his SOE missions and in 1986 it was published as *Special Operations Executed*.

Researching to check details, he consulted SOE files in the Public Record Office and was so incensed by what he found about Yugoslavia that he embarked on what became his last mission. Like many of the liaison officers with the Chetnik Serbs he had always felt that they had been unfairly treated, and that Mihailovic had been first let down, then abandoned in favour of Tito, and finally branded as a traitor by the British.

Lees now believed he had documentary evidence which proved how this came about. It formed the basis of his next book, *The Rape of Serbia: The British Role in Tito's*

*Grab for Power*. Its thesis is that Tito was able to seize power and impose communism on Yugoslavia for 45 years because of the British support he was given. Lees also argued that Churchill was persuaded into giving that support on the basis of one-sided information. The main sufferers under Tito were the Serbs who had remained loyal to their king and to the allies until the Chetniks were crushed and Mihailovic was executed. Because it involved the overturning of an account of history that had held official sway for 40 years, and called into question the judgment of certain British protagonists, no British publisher would accept the book. It was published in America in 1990.

The book was translated and published in Yugoslavia and became a best-seller. On a promotional tour Lees was fished by grateful Serbs of all ages — from veteran Chetniks to young anti-communists who still see in Mihailovic a martyr-hero to inspire them in their struggle against the Milosevic hardliners. With Yugoslavia locked once more in civil strife, Lees took his stand unquestioningly alongside the Serbs, whom he feared were about to be let down again by the British. Virtually single-handed he set out to redress the general partiality of the British media for the Croats. He began a campaign of letters to the press, to government ministers and officials: he addressed meetings in Canada and in Britain, and helped to organise a lobby at Westminster.

Although his health was deteriorating Lees went to the Serb enclave of Krajina to visit the front together with his wife Gwen. In the past two months he had appeared in four BBC television programmes, two to plead the case for the Serbs in the current crisis, and two to put across his view of how Tito bamboozled Churchill.

Lees spent the day he died at his desk intent on his crusade. He had brought to it the great force of personality, the single-mindedness and the courage which had characterised his life. It is not given to many men to die happy in fighting a cause first embraced in youth.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Yves Rocard

MAY I add some detail to your obituary notice (March 23) for Professor Yves Rocard? The "excellent scientific details" which he provided for us of the new German radio navigational station near Barleux involved much more than "smuggling out". We had discovered the station in 1942 by photographic reconnaissance, but were not clear about the details of the antennae, or the function of the station. The Special Operations Executive was looking for promising targets for sabotage, and I suggested the station as a possible candidate. SOE therefore arranged for a preliminary ground reconnaissance by one of the French Resistance networks; and when the agent's report came to us, it was outstanding in its competence and mastery of technical detail. The agent had studied the station at close range and obvious personal risk; and so good was his report that I told SOE that I could not justify any lives being risked in such a raid as we had earlier carried out at Brunel.

The enthusiasm of SOE had, however, been raised so much that some of its officers thought that I would enjoy meeting the agent so they brought him to London by clandestine air.

The agent was Yves Rocard, who while in London hoped to acquire some electronic equipment to investigate the transmissions from the station; but although it was a privilege to meet such a gallant man, it would have been better to leave him in France for further work. SOE intended to return him to Paris within a few days, so that his absence would not be noticed, but the necessary air-lift could not be arranged in time, and so Rocard had to stay out of France for the rest of the war. In London, he quickly found tasks to do with the Free French forces, and by 1944 was Director of Scientific Research with the Free French Navy.



In 1945 when the German cryptographers had fled from their headquarters in Treuenbrietzen, they were discovered in the Free French zone of Germany, where our colleagues in Bletchley would have liked to interrogate them. Official representations for permission to enter the French zone were declined, perhaps because the French wished to establish their authority.

When Bletchley told me about this obstacle, I asked Rocard for help. Within 24 hours he returned saying that the way was now clear for the Bletchley officers to go into the French zone and interrogate their German counterparts. The French would not ask even to be present, and the only request they would make was that if we discovered anything that affected the security of France, would we please let them know.

After the war Rocard returned to physics and engineering, where his contributions included the vibrational stability of railway locomotives, aircraft wings and suspension bridges, and aspects of the French atomic bomb programme. He was the first recipient of the Holweck Prize awarded alternately to French and British physicists, and his name was given to a submarine volcano discovered in the Pacific. Always mindful of the honour of France, he was as staunch a friend as Britain ever had.

R. V. Jones

## PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER HAWKES

Christopher Hawkes, professor of European archaeology in the University of Oxford and fellow of Keble College from 1946 to 1972, died on March 29 aged 66. He was born on June 5, 1905.

CHRISTOPHER Hawkes was a pioneer in the study of the prehistory of Britain and Europe. Starting from the excavation and study of iron age sites in this country he enlarged scholars' view of that era and of those preceding it to provide a comprehensive survey of the prehistory of the British Isles over a period of more than 2,000 years down to the Roman invasion and occupation. His work also provided unique insight into the nature of European barbarian communities and his reputation stood high on the Continent.

Charles Francis Christopher Hawkes was educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, where he read Greats and graduated in 1928. In the same year he was appointed to a post in the department of British and medieval antiquities in the British Museum and began his formal career as a prehistorian, although already in 1925-28 he and other Wykehamists (including J. N. L. Myres, later to be

Bodley's librarian) had undertaken a notable campaign of excavation on the prehistoric and medieval sites on St Catherine's Hill, Winchester. Hawkes continued as assistant keeper in the department until the second world war when he took up duties with the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

He returned to the British Museum at the end of the war and in 1946 was appointed as the first holder of the chair of European archaeology at Oxford, and was elected a fellow of Keble College. He retired from the chair in 1972. He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1932 and of the British Academy in 1948. He was a corresponding member of the German Archaeological Institute and a member of the Conseil Permanent of the International Congress of Pre- and Protohistoric Sciences, and from 1950 to 1953 was president of the Prehistoric Society. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Rennes in 1971 in recognition of his services to Celtic scholarship, and in 1981 was awarded the Gold Medal of the Society of Antiquaries in London.

Christopher Hawkes was one of the first of the scholars in this country who, like Gor-

don Childe, founded in the late 1920s and early 1930s international prehistory as a discipline in Britain. The climate of archaeological thought after the first world war was provincial and limited, but in the astonishingly precocious study of the prehistoric problems involved in the study of the St Catherine's Hill Iron Age hill fort, we can see how Hawkes, at the very outset of his career, foreshadowed what was to be his main contribution to British and European prehistory. On the one hand, the standard of excavation, and of its presentation and publication, was markedly in advance of most contemporary work. Hawkes's skill in the field continued to be shown by a series of excavations logically related to the beginnings at Winchester; and on the other, the problems of the early Iron Age in Britain were for the first time studied against their Continental background. His work at Colchester with M. R. Hull magnificently illuminated the last phase of prehistoric Britain.

This phase of prehistory — the European Late Bronze Age and early Iron Age — continued to engross Hawkes throughout his working life, and his most notable contri-

butions to the elucidation of these very complex and formative periods are a tribute to his consistent research in these fields. Among his last publications were studies of the voyage of Pytheas and of Caesar's invasion of Britain. Curiously enough, his main published work, *The Prehistoric Foundations of Europe*, published in 1940, covers a chronological field ending in the middle of the second millennium BC and his fundamentally constructive work on later periods was presented in a series of papers in learned journals. He was always fascinated by the interaction of higher and lower civilizations, and as a classic scholar he was able to study the barbarian European communities with which a prehistorian has to deal with an insight and breadth of vision which was illuminating and rewarding.

Any study of the Iron Age culture presupposes an understanding of those of the preceding Bronze Age, and the essential structure of the prehistory of the British Isles from the middle of the second millennium B.C. up to (and during) the Roman Occupation was worked out by Hawkes. All subsequent thinking on this period has inevitably to be based on the

sound foundations he built. In connection with the study of bronze implements he was quick to recognise the necessity of archaeological evidence being assembled in accessible corpus form, and he campaigned valiantly for this essential documentation of our source material at a time when all too few scholars appreciated the importance of such an approach. His work with the international *Inventaria Archaeologica* series was an outcome of this, and his interest in the application of scientific techniques to archaeological material resulted in the foundation of the Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art at Oxford.

Hawkes also made profoundly important contributions to the whole question of archaeological theory and the nature of archaeological evidence. His insistence that the limitations of such evidence must be frankly admitted in any process of inference and reconstruction of non-historic cultures was a salutary corrective to a tendency in certain quarters to over-estimate the amount of information on social structure and institutions that could be obtained by archaeological means alone. He was also concerned with the problems of cultural

change in prehistory in relation to the alternatives of indigenous development or outside stimuli, particularly in the instance of the Celtic tradition in Europe and the British Isles. He had a keen sense of the continuity of prehistory and early history in Europe, and a mastery of both fields of study in a tradition of scholarship now rare. Hawkes was shy, and to those who did not know him well could give the impression of a scholar unapproachable because of his vast erudition. His friends, and colleagues and students knew that behind the massive learning there was his warm and generous personality, a sense of humour and a love of parody, even if sometimes masked by the intense application to an intellectual ideal that his scholastic integrity demanded.

Hawkes was twice married, first, in 1933, to Jacquetta Goward Hopkins (the author Jacquetta Hawkes, with whom he wrote one of his books). The marriage was dissolved in 1953 and she subsequently married J. B. Priestley. Hawkes married secondly in 1959 Sonia Chadwick who survives him. There was a son of his first marriage.

## JOHN ROBERTSON

John Ross Robertson, promotions director for Beaverbrook Newspapers, died at his home near Malaga, Spain, on March 22 aged 67. He was born in London on March 30, 1924.

JOHN Robertson spent most of his working life on the management side of Beaverbrook Newspapers, following in the footsteps of his father, E. J. Robertson, who ran the whole operation during its greatest years. Even so Robertson had to fight hard to progress up the management ladder. The old family connection meant rather less than Lord Beaverbrook's absolute control and he showed little interest in E.J.'s son.

Perhaps the Beaver listened too readily to some of his older cronies, who were quick to suggest that Robertson did not possess in full measure the talents needed to keep the business in equilibrium between a rasping Canadian voice on the telephone and the realities of the day-to-day newspaper production. But John Robertson succeeded.

"JR", as he became widely known once television bought the Ewing family into every home, had certain superficial similarities to the central character of *Dallas*. He was always immaculately dressed and enjoyed his off-duty life in the fast lane. He was good

looking, had an imposing presence and was attractive to women. He was intelligent with a quick brain, but he was not at his best in arguing his corner. Nor did he find it easy on grounds of conscience or temperament to conduct industrial relations in the approved manner of the 1970s, which was no more than a controlled retreat before the industrial guerrillas of the print unions who called all the shots.

To his many loyal friends John Robertson remained a gregarious and amusing bon vivant. But a succession of savage setbacks in his private and professional life left their mark. He parted from Beaverbrook Newspapers in the late 1970s, abruptly and unhappily. And for a time he found it difficult to face the future with confidence or cheerfulness.

Born in London he attended Hawtreys preparatory before going to Stowe in 1937. He claimed that the choice was made for him after the *Daily Express* printed a story which so incensed the authorities at Eton that they withdrew the place which had been reserved for him at birth. At Stowe he became a prefect, popular, notably bright, an urbane and polished young man who cut a dash with an illegal motor car parked in a nearby barn which broadened the scope

of his extra-curricular activities.

In 1942 he volunteered for aircrew in the RAF through the Oxford University Air Squadron. A natural pilot, he was soon selected to be a flying instructor in Canada. Demobilised as a flight lieutenant in 1947, he returned to Christ Church, Oxford, to complete his degree course.

He then became a management trainee in Beaverbrook Newspapers. After a spell in the Manchester office he returned to the *Evening Standard* in London. He will best be remembered for the many years he spent as publicity and promotions manager to the Beaverbrook Group during an era when it set the pace with such prestigious events as the Cowes-Torquay Offshore Powerboat Race, the Express Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham, Formula 1 racing at Silverstone and many other one-off sporting events with stylish promotions.

He was a proficient sailor and navigator, racing and cruising from Cowes for many years, mostly in his own 32ft cruiser-racer. He was a member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club and was a rear commodore of the Royal London Yacht Club. For the last decade he lived in retirement in Spain. He is survived by a son, a daughter and his wife Hedda.

## EBERHARD WAECHTER

Eberhard Waechter, Viennese baritone and artistic director of Vienna State Opera, died while walking in the Vienna Woods on March 29 aged 62. He was born in Vienna on July 9, 1929.

EBERHARD Waechter was one of the most colourful personalities on the opera scene both off and on the stage. Initially a baritone of formidable voice and presence, he latterly became a shrewd interpreter of the some of the operatic characters dearest to the Viennese heart and reached a wider audience as a genial "host" of television shows. Finally he attained the dizzy but uncertain height of artistic director at his beloved Vienna State Opera, having been involved in the machinations that ousted Claudio Abbado from the post.

There was more than a touch of xenophobia and Vienna for the Viennese in all this. Waechter represented a widely held local view that nothing at the State Opera is right unless a local is in charge. Besides he had the ultra-conservative public on his side in opposing outrageous stagings and too many foreign artists. In any case the house seemed destined, under his direction, to a period of retrenchment based on the old ensemble/reperory system that Abbado had



fought vainly to change. Waechter studied in Vienna at the Music Academy and made his debut at the Volksoper in 1953 as Silvio in *Pagliacci*. Two years later he was called to the State Opera where he remained for the rest of his career singing all the roles in Mozart, Verdi and Wagner, among others, suited to his predominantly lyrical baritone. Later he moved to parts requiring more dramatic power. He became a star in his Mozart roles at the Salzburg festival in the 1950s and then appeared successfully at the Bayreuth festival as Wolfram, Amfortas and Kurwenal.

Meanwhile Walter Legge quickly garnered him for his house ensemble at EMI. He was Count Almaviva in

Giulini's recording of *Figaro* and took the title role in the same conductor's set of *Don Giovanni*. Then he was the Count in the classic recording of Richard Strauss's *Capriccio*. Waechter first appeared at Covent Garden at Count Almaviva in 1956, returning for Renato in *Un ballo in maschera* in 1959, the year he also sang Amfortas in the house. Latterly his jovial presence could be encountered as Eisenstein in Carlos Kleiber's version of *Die Fledermaus* made a year or two back in Munich. Danilo in *The Merry Widow* was another favourite role of his. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he made some fine records of Lieder, among them a much admired *Dichterliebe* that has recently reappeared on CD.

In its prime Waechter's voice was a virile, velvety instrument. He sang with a secure line and a sure sense of the style required for whatever composer he was interpreting. His strong presence on stage and a gift for acting ensured that he was for many years the darling of the Vienna public and it was in his native city that he usually gave of his best. He could often be seen engaged in lively conversation within the environs of the State Opera, a jovial, argumentative figure wholly devoted to opera and Vienna.

## March 31 ON THIS DAY 1836



Runnymede was the pseudonym of Disraeli, who took advantage of the anonymity to attack in a series of articles in *The Times* prominent figures in the government, notably Lord Melbourne. "You have a surprising disdain for the law of libel," wrote a worried editor. *Barnes*, to the author, and after another article attacking Melbourne, published two months later, the feature was discontinued.

## TO VISCONTI MELBOURNE LETTER XV

My Lord, — I always experience peculiar gratification in addressing your Lordship. Your Lordship is such a general favourite. I have read somewhere of "the best-natured man with the worst-natured muse." I have always deemed your Lordship the best-natured Minister with the worst-natured party. And, really, if you have sometimes a little lost your temper — if for those Epicurean shrugs of the shoulder and *admirari* smiles, which were once your winning characteristics, you have occasionally of late substituted a little of the Cambray's vein, and demeaned yourself as if you were practising "Pens" for the next private theatricals at Farnham, very extenuating circumstances may, I think, be found in the heterogeneous and Hudibrastic elements of that party which Fate, in a freak of fun has called upon your Lordship to regulate. What a crew! I can compare them to nothing but the Swabian swine in the Brunnen bubbles, guzzling and grunting in a bed of mire, fouling themselves, and debauching every luckless passenger with their contaminating filth.

We are all now going into the country, and you and your colleagues are about to escape

will fill the gap. The fond memories of a Goody Jack remind one of why football continues to have such a hold on us despite the current commercially threatening continually to destroy it.

Howard Lamb



## Jack Kelsey

YOUR comprehensive and sensitive obituary (March 23) on Jack Kelsey will be sincerely appreciated by all Arsenal supporters who had the fortune and honour to have seen him play. My recurring memory of those teenage years of the 1950s is of standing at Highbury whilst Jack, virtually singlehandedly at times, kept Arsenal in the First Division.

The Match on ITV the following Sunday, which featured Arsenal-Leeds, sadly managed only a single mention — the explanation of why the Arsenal team wore black armbands. What a pity they could not find time for some archive clips.

In an era when one club loyalty is no longer a feature of players, only fans, hopefully one of the TV companies



# All change at Althorp as heir takes over

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE new Earl Spencer now faces the daunting prospect of running his ancestral home, Althorp, in highly adverse economic conditions. Lord Shelburne, chairman of the Historic Houses Association, said yesterday all stately home owners faced the dilemma of having to sell off heirlooms when the books would not balance; income from estate agriculture had halved in the past decade.

Earl Spencer will no doubt be in favour of proposals the association will put to the government after April 9 — zero VAT rating for all repairs to listed buildings, and no income tax or capital gains tax on maintenance funds endowed by stately home owners to keep their houses in order.

Pay your £2.95, take the tour of Althorp, and you will find, quite apart from the Van Dycks sold off amid much protest and dismay, another significant omission from one of Europe's biggest private art collections. Among the endless and faintly dreary acreage of Spencers past, there is not one portrait of the Hon Frances Roche, first wife of the eighth earl who died on Sunday. After their divorce in 1969, she became an "unperson" at the family seat, and every representation of her was removed.

The same fate may await Raine, the second Countess Spencer, whose somewhat chocolate-box likeness has hung amid the ancient family oils in the main hall these few years past. The reign of Raine is ended, and an acrimonious chapter in Spencer family history is closed.

Charles Althorp, since Sunday night the ninth Earl Spencer, made it quite clear yesterday that, while continuing with his job as a Granada Television journalist, he would move into the Northamptonshire family home with his wife and year-old daughter and assume full responsibility for its running. The new *châtelaine*, married in 1989, is the former Victoria Lockwood from Barnes, daughter of the personnel director of the Civil Aviation Authority.

The new Earl Spencer has made no secret of his alarm at the way his stepmother has disposed of some of the family treasures. As she becomes dowager countess on the death of her husband, Raine Spencer loses all rights to Althorp; the English custom of primogeniture reigns supreme. Raine Spencer will live at the family's



Financial burden: a £2 million face-lift in 1982 of Althorp, the Spencer family seat in Northamptonshire, now home of the ninth earl, caused family differences



Raine, Countess Spencer, yesterday



Althorp's new master: the ninth Earl Spencer and his wife



Raine's reign: the eighth earl and his second wife

London home in Mayfair, though she could, if she wished, retreat to one of three Bognor Regis houses she and Earl Spencer bought.

Earl Spencer disclosed last year that when he inherited Althorp, on the death of his father in 1975, he also inherited death duties of £1.5 million and a debt on the estate of £2 million. Art sources estimate that the sale of paintings, furniture and artifacts in succeeding years raised about £3 million.

Experts believe that, had he had one large country-house auction, he could have raised several times that amount. Examples abound. He sold Salvador Rosa's *The Witches' Sabbath* to a dealer in 1982 for £50,000; two years later it was bought by the National Gallery for £350,000. Earl Spencer steered clear of major auction houses, but was often seen about Bond Street and his private dealers, apparently to avoid the controversy and publicity that sale of

family treasures at public auction would attract. The HHA did not much care for the Countess Spencer; they withdrew Althorp's membership, because she would not agree to the normal reciprocal arrangement whereby one stately home owner is allowed to visit another free of charge. Much of the money raised from sales was used to finance a £2 million redecoration of the house in 1982 under the direction of Raine Spencer, a former chairman

of the GLC historic buildings board. Her colour scheme, making liberal use of gold and white paint, raised squeals of horror in some quarters. The sales continued, and the differences between Charles Althorp and his father and stepmother became embarrassingly public. Marketing copies of the princess's wedding dress in Japan and allowing the Spencer name to be used by a Japanese golf club did not please the children.

In spite of an often difficult

## Princess back home

Continued from page 1  
the Spencers' Mayfair home in London. Now styled Raine, Countess Spencer, she paid a brief visit yesterday to the Farm Street Church of the Immaculate Conception, near her London home, and spent some time in prayer. The church is run by Jesuits, although the countess herself is not a Catholic.

and frequently well-publicised relationship with her four stepchildren, the dowager countess yesterday praised the new earl, saying he had been "a great comfort, making all sorts of arrangements". Dressed in a full-length fur-trimmed black coat, she was driven away afterwards in her Rolls-Royce.

Diary, page 14

## Algerians flee to Britain

Continued from page 1

problem of detection is made harder because there are millions of legitimate French nationals of North African origin.

Anglo-French consultations have taken place and a strengthening of detection measures at British ports is expected. "All we can do is to make sure we catch these people and put them straight on a plane home," a British official said.

One diplomat added: "The main reason the Algerians are trying to get into Britain now is economic. In a way, it is understandable as they can earn more in Britain in a week than they could here in months, plus there is nothing here for them to buy."

Tewfik, a surly youth aged 18 in Algiers' teeming fundamentalist quarter of Bab-el-Oued, said: "If you could get there, England is better than France because you do not have people like (Jean-Marie) Le Pen stirring up hatred against the Arabs."

The growth of European and immigrant parties is well known even in remote corners of Algeria because an estimated seven million people have access to the satellite dishes now beaming in Western television stations round the clock.

## New theory on the Bard

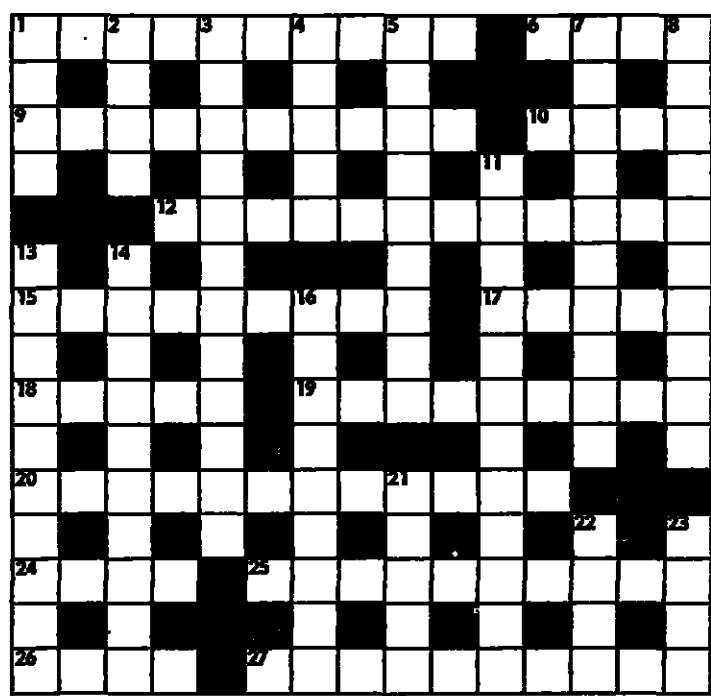
Continued from page 1

computerised image analysis to arrive at her conclusions. "You could take the two portraits, scale them down to the same size on a Xerox machine, and lay them on top of each other and see for yourself," Dr Schwartz said. Only the beard, jaw lines and forehead differ, which Dr Schwartz attributes to an attempt by the engraver to hide the secret by adding masculine features to the Queen's face.

The findings have prompted Dr Dressler, who is planning to publish her paper soon, to reassess her theories on the authorship of the Shakespeare plays. She now believes that the computer evidence, hints in the writings of Jonson, the style of the poem *When I Was Fair And Young*, which is signed with the name of the Queen and the Earl of Oxford, indicates that either Oxford or Oxford and the Queen might have been behind the works.

Leading article, page 15

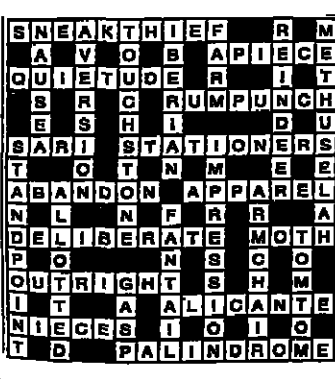
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,880



### ACROSS

- 1 The first with a drill when plane has corrosion in main body? (6,4)
- 6 Computer lingo's not about to make old Greek change (4)
- 9 Play with reserve, making provision for a draw (6,4)
- 10 Delivered second letter at last in Moravia (4)
- 12 Interpret wrongly master's Latin? (12)
- 15 Inform about rookie's stolen weapon? (9)
- 17 Find the right page for the head of school right away (5)
- 18 Still in supersonic aircraft, showing courage? (5)
- 19 Issue a summons about a payment for the family (9)
- 20 Heard days before, it may instil one with curiosity (12)

### Solution to Puzzle No 18,879



### DOWN

- 1 Fair tournament? Nothing's been forgotten (4)
- 2 Dainty material is cut (4)
- 3 The favourite for the nursery stakes? (7-5)
- 4 A little uprising — and in Latin country? (5)
- 5 Nurse has air poet (4,5)
- 7 The problem comes up with a curate's organisation — he's officious (10)
- 8 Unfasten the curtain — it's draped all over the sofa (5,5)
- 11 Trains moving smoothly in an invigorating way (12)
- 13 Time my car's overhauled — it's not properly balanced (10)
- 14 Came across a kind of check made on the board (10)
- 16 Plane making a curve — the result of hop and barley brew? (9)
- 21 American who wrote about Nazis and the force of law? (5)
- 22 French product marked up in their bistros (4)
- 23 Sounds as if you need the eighth (4)

The Concise Crossword is on page 11. Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- PINDARIC**  
a. Divisible by seven  
b. Shards of  
c. Ranting  
**RANTIPOLE**  
a. Disorderly  
b. A quindale staff  
c. Grumblers  
**GRUMBLERS**  
a. Drags  
b. Pea pods  
c. Goblets  
**GOSBETS**  
a. Big cats  
b. Before the Off bets  
c. Bits of meat

Answers on page 16

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE	
C London (within M & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M2	734
M-ways/roads M2-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

England and Wales will be rather cloudy with heavy, thundery showers although there might be the occasional bright spell in between. Showers over Northern Ireland will turn to longer periods of rain during the afternoon. Scotland will be mostly dry at first with only patchy rain or sleet. This will soon be replaced with brighter weather and showers, heavy at times with sleet or snow. Outlook: unsettled, with more rain, sleet or snow.

MIDWINTER: 1-thunder; 2-drizzle; 3-fog; 4-snow; 5-sleet; 6-rain; 7-mist; 8-hail; 9-cloud; 10-rain

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sun
Alps	14	5	1	0	1
Alps	17	6	1	0	1
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Alps	94	6	1	0	1
Alps	95	6	1	0	1
Alps	96	6	1	0	1
Alps	97	6	1	0	1
Alps	98	6	1	0	1
Alps	99	6	1	0	1
Alps	100	6	1	0	1

\* denotes figures are latest available

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sun
Greater London	701				
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702				
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703				
Devon & Cornwall	704				
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Somerset	705				
Berk, Bucks, Oxon	706				
Beds, Herts & Essex	707				
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708				
West Mid & Sh. Glos & Gwent	709				
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710				
Central Midlands	711				
East Midlands	712				
Lincoln & Humberside	713				
York & North York	714				
Glouce & Chywy	715				
N W England	716				
W & S Yorks & Wales	717				
N E England	718				
Cumbria & Lake District	719				
S W Scotland	720				
W Central Scotland	721				
Edin & Fife, Lothian & Borders	722				
E Central Scotland & Wales	723				
Grampian & E Highlands	724				
N W Scotland	725				
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726				
N Ireland	727				

Weather is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Sunday: Highest day temp: Thirington, Somerset, and Manston, Kent, 11C (59F). Lowest day max: Aberdeen Airport, 5C (41F). Highest night temp: Falmouth, 8.8C in highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.0 hr.

## England and Wales will be

rather cloudy with heavy, thundery showers although there might be the occasional bright spell in between. Showers over Northern Ireland will turn to longer periods of rain during the afternoon. Scotland will be mostly dry at first with only patchy rain or sleet. This will soon be replaced with brighter weather and showers, heavy at times with sleet or snow. Outlook: unsettled, with more rain, sleet or snow.

	Sun h	Rain h	Max C	Min F
Abandon	0.1	0.77	5	-41
Angels	5.6	0.18	10	50
Arctic	0.1	0.18	10	50
Balloon	3.5	0.13	49	48
Birmingham	0.1	0.18	49	48
Black Range	0.7	0.18	8	46
Cardiff	2.6	0.16	10	50
Cheltenham	0.1	0.18	49	48
Chorley	2.1	0.09	49	48
Cromer	0.0	0.06	49	48
Edinburgh	0.6	0.08	49	48
Essex	0.3	0.12	49	48
Exeter	0.0	0.03	49	48
Gloucester	0.0	0.03	49	48
Glasgow	0.0	0.31	3	46
Glasgow	2.9	0.18	11	52
Grimsby	1.9	0.09	49	48
Hampton	0.1	0.11	7	45
Jersey	1.4	0.44	10	50
Leamington	0.1	0.18	10	50
Leeds	0.4	0.14	9	49
London	0.1	0.1	11	52
London	0.1	0.1	11	52
Newcastle	0.0	0.07	8	46
Newbury	0.0	0.51	49	48
Northampton	0.1	0.09	49	48
Penzance	5.3	0.24	49	48
Plymouth	0.1	0.09	49	48
Portsmouth	0.1	0.24	49	48
Præstwich	0.1	0.09	49	48
Reading	2.7	0.08	10	50
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## TODAY IN BUSINESS

### PENSIONED OFF

## Lucas

Lucas Industries, which has shed 9,000 jobs in the past two years, is able to maintain its interim dividend after receiving a £90 million cash injection from its pension fund  
Page 21

### PROBLEM SHARED

Abbey National is taking legal advice about what to do with £100 million of unwanted shares burning a hole in its vaults, three years after their issue  
Page 21

### NO BID



Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, firmly ruled out a bid for any part of Mirror Group Newspapers  
Page 21

### HARD SELL

Germany's Treuhand is to advise eastern Europe how not to privatise state-run enterprises  
Page 23

### LAW TIMES

### CHILDREN FIRST



The voice of the child should be heard above all others, Paula Davies argues  
Page 27

US dollar 1.7315 (-0.0085)  
German mark 2.8570 (-0.0011)  
Exchange index 90.1 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1916.1 (+1.2)  
FT-SE 100 2452.9 (+5.0)  
New York Dow Jones 3240.61 (+9.17)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 1969.31 (+32.32)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10.5%  
3-month interbank 10.75-10.8%  
3-month sterling bill 10.5-10.6%  
US: Prime Rate 6.5%  
Federal Funds 4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 4.02-4.01%  
30-year bonds 10.0%-10.0%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£: \$1.7324  
£: DM2.8610  
£: SwF2.8133  
£: FF4.7056  
£: Yen251.19  
£: Index90.1  
ECU 60.714812  
ECU1.389989  
London forex market close

### GOLD

London fixing:  
AM \$342.75 pm \$343.30  
close \$341.90-342.40 (E197.75-198.25)  
New York:  
Comex \$343.15-343.65

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (May) ... \$17.90 bbl (\$17.90)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading prices

## Time needed for DTI enquiry

# Frost stands down as NatWest chief

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Blue Arrow affair, which has hung over National Westminster Bank for more than four years, has finally claimed the head of Tom Frost, its chief executive.

Mr Frost is standing down because of the appointment of DTI inspectors to investigate the role of senior NatWest management in the aftermath of the Blue Arrow rights issue. He will become a part-time joint deputy chairman, continuing to play a role at the bank until his retirement in 18 months.

Derek Wanless, deputy chief executive, is taking over from Mr Frost "with immediate effect" and, at 44, will be NatWest's youngest ever chief executive. Mr Frost said: "He is my guy for the job".

NatWest said the move, agreed between the board and Mr Frost, was to allow Mr Frost "to give sufficient time to the investigation". This reverses the stance taken by the bank three weeks ago.

On March 12, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, announced the investigation just two days after Lord Alexander of Wealden, chairman of NatWest, had publicly requested one to clear Mr Frost's name and NatWest's reputation after criticisms were voiced during and after the Blue Arrow trial. At that time, however, Mr Frost said that Mr Frost would stay in his post and that suggestions that he would stand down during the enquiry or retire early from the chief executive role were "complete nonsense" and "untrue". Lord

Alexander said he started discussions with Mr Frost on the possibility of him standing down only on March 18, after Mr Frost had reflected on the amount of his time likely to be taken up by the enquiry, which the DTI expects to last for several months. He said: "In tough times the chief executive has to have a single-minded focus".

Mr Frost said both the enquiry and the direction of NatWest had to be dealt with properly. "It was not readily evident initially that the enquiry would take up more time than I should take away from NatWest", Lord Alexander argued that when NatWest asked for the enquiry "we had not got our minds round how much time it would take. Perhaps we ought to have foreseen this".

## Top directors' pay rises average 9.3%

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE take-home pay of directors of large companies rose by more than twice the rate of inflation last year, according to Britain's most comprehensive management pay survey.

Directors of companies with turnover in excess of £500 million averaged a 9.3 per cent increase in pay during 1991. When smaller companies are included, directors averaged rises of 3.3 per cent, the British Institute of Management found. The results of the study, covering more than 24,000 directors and managers, are expected to lead to a renewed row over boardroom pay when details are published next month.

Roger Young, the BIM's director general, is likely to issue a warning that pay rises out of step with profits damage companies' competitiveness and industrial relations. Robert Evans, the British Gas

chairman, has already attracted attention for accepting a 17.6 per cent pay rise last year, to £435,222. The rise has infuriated leaders of the company's 28,000 manual workers, who have been offered a rise of 4.25 per cent.

Yet the BIM findings suggest that most managers and directors found their pay packets squeezed last year because bonuses fell as a result of the recession.

According to the BIM, the average pay rise across the whole economy last year was 8 per cent. The average increase in take-home pay for the managers was 6.1 per cent, so although most received pay increases ahead of inflation, at 4.1 per cent, they averaged smaller rises than many shop-floor workers. A study by the Reward Group found managers' basic pay rose 7.1 per cent in 1991.

## Electronic trading begins at Lloyd's

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE demise of the historic paper slip, which has been used for centuries by brokers at Lloyd's of London to record policy participations by syndicates, came a step closer yesterday with the launch of a limited electronic trading system in the insurance market.

Participants are playing down comparisons of the introduction of the system, electronic placing support (EPS), with the Stock Exchange's Big Bang, but concede that its impact could be as profound in the long term.

The system allows brokers to offer simple risks electronically to Lloyd's and company underwriters in London, which can be accepted or

rejected electronically or after face to face negotiation with the broker.

Syndicates from 30 managing agents representing about 80 per cent of the capacity of Lloyd's, 17 brokers representing 85 per cent of the market, and all members of the London company market associations, make up the initial participants.

The first electronically brokered risk was placed with a Lloyd's syndicate by Sedgwick at 8.26 am yesterday.

Terry Hayday, chairman of the Lloyd's network steering group, said EPS would make London "certainly the most technologically advanced insurance market in the world".

Comment, page 23



Wanless: youngest chief

## Bonuses at BHS beat tax deadline

By LINDSAY COOK AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BHS, formerly British Home Stores, part of the Storehouse group, has paid 50 of its senior managers profit-related cash bonuses. By making the payments before Sunday, when the current tax year ends, the managers will have saved thousands of pounds in tax which would have been due if Labour wins the election.

The group, whose year ended yesterday, said the bonus payments were timed to coincide with the group's year end and were not designed to avoid tax payments should a Labour government come to power.

But a spokesman for the company said that the timing of the payments means that the managers will pay tax at the current levels. Were Labour to win the election it is believed that most of those who earned the bonuses would fall into the proposed 59 per cent tax and national insurance band.

Because the group is in its closed period, it cannot reveal the level of bonuses paid — but the spokesman said: "It's not eye-popping stuff, but it is nice to have. The bonuses were not paid last year because the group did not beat its budgets."

Under current legislation, tax on bonuses must be paid in the year in which the bonus is paid. By receiving the bonuses prior to the new tax year on April 6, an average BHS manager on £60,000 receiving a 20 per cent bonus, could save £2,280 in tax.

At BHS the top paid executive is David Dworkin who last year received £369,577. If he received a 20 per cent bonus of £73,915 he would currently face a tax bill of £29,566 on the bonus. Under a Labour government the bill would be £43,609 for tax and National Insurance.

A large number of companies have advanced the date for bonus payments this year, because of higher tax fears. Some of the schemes pay in gold bars held offshore or in vouchers to additionally escape the employers' National In-

surance contributions of 10.4 per cent. Employees who receive such bonuses are usually above the current ceiling for National Insurance contributions of £90 a week.

But under a Labour government they would attract National Insurance contributions at 9 per cent. John Smith, shadow chancellor, said that he would backdate his increase in income tax to April 6 but he did not expect the changes for National Insurance to be implemented before July.

Merchant banks and stockbrokers have paid the largest bonuses in the past. An employee receiving £100,000 in bonus this year would pay £40,000 tax on it. If it were in cash the employer would pay £10,400 in National Insurance contributions.

Under Labour, the £100,000 bonus would be taxed at 50 per cent and 9 per cent National Insurance would be charged to the employee. This would leave the employee with £41,000 compared with £60,000 if it is paid before the weekend.



Eye for a bargain: two Mercedes limousines are among 19 cars owned by BCCI that are being sold by tender by Henry Butcher & Co, the auctioneer and surveyor. The tender closes on Friday at noon

## Creditors sent terms of BCCI payout

By JON ASHWORTH

CREDITORS of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International face a ten-year wait if a compensation deal put to the majority shareholders is not approved.

Details of a \$3.1 billion package, which could guarantee creditors up to 40 per cent of their money back, are being sent out this week. Terms of possible compensation were agreed last month between Touche Ross, the liquidator, and the Abu Dhabi majority shareholders. The details have been packaged in a "readable" form for BCCI's creditors, of which 32,000 are in the UK.

The deal under which \$1.4 billion in assets will be pooled with \$1.7 billion or more from the government of Abu Dhabi, is subject to agreement from creditors and to court approval in three countries. If agreement is not reached, the liquidators say that legal action against Abu Dhabi over the recovery of funds could take up to ten years.

Under the proposals, Abu Dhabi would pay \$1.7 billion into a contribution fund in a series of tranches. If the liquidators recover more than \$2.5 billion, the excess will be shared. If BCCI's liabilities exceed \$10 billion, Abu Dhabi's contribution rises to \$2.2 billion.

Touche Ross goes to the High Court on April 8 to seek approval for the deal, and court clearance is required in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands. If approved, an interim payment of about 10p in the pound could follow next year and creditors could ultimately receive between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of their money back.

In agreeing to the deal, the majority shareholders and the liquidators have agreed to drop claims and counter-claims. Creditors will have to sign over all legal rights before they can benefit.

The pooling deal is expected to speed up distributions to creditors and increase the amount they stand to get back from less than 10 per cent to up to 40 per cent.

Touche Ross is suing Ernst & Young for negligence and breach of contract over its auditing of the bank's 1986 reports.

## Eurotunnel to seek further ruling on claims battle

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL is to take its battle over £810 million of additional claims by contractors building the Channel tunnel to arbitration in Brussels after being ordered to make interim payments of £50 million a month by the project's disputes panel.

The project developer said it would accept parts of the judgment, but made a final appeal to the International Chamber of Commerce over some elements of the ruling.

Eurotunnel also said that before the first £50 million payment falls due, it was "taking steps" to show that the panel, an arbitration body chaired by Professor Philippe Malinvaud, of the Université de Paris, had no power to order interim payments.

Shares in Eurotunnel fell 33p to 405p in reaction to the ruling. The judgment constitutes a defeat for Eurotunnel in its eight-month battle to disown additional claims on the £620 million lump-sum contract to fit out the tunnel.

TransManche Link (TML), the contractors' consortium made up of five French and five British contractors, is seeking payments totalling £1.27 billion, plus a £160 million management fee, at 1985 prices. The British contractors have each made provisions of £12 million against losses on the lump-sum contract. An order to triple progress payments by paying an additional £50 million a month would place severe pressure on Eurotunnel to reach agreement with TML.

The panel said the fixed equipment work should remain the subject of a lump-sum contract, and Eurotunnel and TML should agree a sum to be paid "in aggregate" for the fixed equipment. If they failed to reach agreement, the panel was prepared to fix elements of the sum.

Eurotunnel still appears confident the dispute can be settled within the £450 million of provisions made against contract disputes. However, the banking consortium to the £8.05 billion project is already reviewing a "marginal failure" by Eurotunnel to meet one of the funding conditions. Eurotunnel said the failure did not constitute a default, but paying an additional £50 million a month would increase pressure on its finances.

The tunnel is expected to open in late summer next year. A full service is unlikely until mid-1994.

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## European Bank aims to direct funds to CIS

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is planning to direct about 40 per cent of its total lending to the 11 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The investment surge into the CIS follows a recent decision by the bank's board of directors to grant full membership to all countries of the former Soviet Union, except for Georgia.

Presenting the European

Bank's first annual results for 1991, Jacques Attali, the president, said that total lending and investments will rise from 427 million euros (£310 million) in 1991, to about £1 billion this year and to £2 billion next year. Administrative expenses were £43.1 million, including £23.3 million in staff costs. The staff cost for the average employee came to £81,500.

Attali's alone, page 21



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# Profits slide to £27m at Wilson Connolly

BY MARTIN WALLER

SHAREHOLDERS in Wilson (Connolly) Holdings, a builder that is weathering the recession better than most, are being rewarded with a 5 per cent dividend rise despite a 13 per cent profit fall in the year to December 31. They could also see a sales improve in 1992.

A final payment of 2.66p makes a total of 3.93p, covered 2.6 times. Pre-tax profits fell to £27.1 million from £31.1 million the previous year. Ian Black, managing

director, said the year in housebuilding had been punctuated by "false dawns". The group sold at satisfactory levels during and after the Gulf war but there was no autumn upsurge. November and December were particularly disappointing.

The election could end a period of uncertainty, Mr Black said. Decisions by potential customers and clients had been deferred, so construction and property operations might pick up again soon. Poor levels of house reservations in the second half of 1991, however, would depress profits in the first six months of this year. Reservations in the first three months of 1992 had been more buoyant.

Wilson (Connolly) sold 2,750 homes last year at an average price of £54,400, down from £59,500 in 1990 and £64,500 in 1989. However, the company maintained pre-tax margins at 17 per cent in 1991.

The group was active in the land market, buying 3,700 plots at an average price of £12,000 and bringing the total land bank to 14,400 plots. Cash gearing at the year-end was just 13 per cent. Lynn Wilson, chairman, said: "These results will, I am sure, be seen as amongst the best in the industry, which has been ravaged by recession unprecedented in the lives of those that work within it."

The housebuilding side saw profits before tax slip from £33.1 million to £25.7 million, while the construction activities fell back from £4.3 million to £3.03 million. Property registered a profit of £380,000, against £5.56 million last time. Wilson Connolly took provisions of £2.02 million against the value of land and property, compared with £12.01 million last time.

## Rutland maintains dividend

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RUTLAND Trust, the financial services group, has held its dividend for the year to end December, despite a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £8.2 million. The final was pegged at 0.53p, making an 0.89p total again. Earnings per share fell to 1.8p (2.38p).

Results reflected the continuing UK recession, which hit the equipment financing and surveying operations. The equipment and computer leasing activities have now been sold and the disposal recorded as a £3.3 million extraordinary loss. Hunter & Partners, the architectural and building surveying practice, traded at a loss which was offset by increased levels of business for Ellis & Buckle, the chartered loss adjuster subsidiary. The company said that each of its three divisions achieved positive cash flow and net profits during the year. Shareholders funds at the year-end were £26 million and group net cash resources £19.5 million.



Corporate fitness drive: Henderson, left, with Snyder and Conley

## Alexon shows a leaner style

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALEXON Group, the retailer that owns the Dash, Alexon and Easter brands, saw its shares fall 22p to 338p yesterday after writing off £6.32 million in extraordinary losses following the closure of Dash Junior and the group's American stores.

Ruth Henderson, chief executive, said Dash Junior was a brand inherited from the takeover of Ellis & Goldstein in 1988. The concept had never worked well, she said.

Group pre-tax profits were £11.3 million in the 52 weeks to January 25, compared with £12.8 million in the 43 weeks to January 26, 1991. Alexon changed its year-end to coincide with its department store customers and to include the crucial January sales period. Turnover rose

from £104 million to £121 million but on an annualised basis sales fell 4 per cent. As an extra 4 per cent of new sales space was added, sales fell 8 per cent on a same-shop basis. Operating profits fell from £12.9 million to £12.6 million, a 19 per cent fall on an annualised basis.

Earnings per share before the extraordinary loss fell 19 per cent on an annualised basis, to 23p. The final dividend of 7.6p makes 10.6p for the year, an increase on last year on an annualised basis. The £6.32 million extraordinary loss meant the group made a bottom-line loss of £1.8 million.

Alexon decided not to discount its prices outside the sale period and, although this resulted in a loss of busi-

ness to competitors who discounted heavily, the operating margin was 11 per cent, only 1 percentage point below the previous year despite increases in rent and rates.

Sales at Alexon fell by more than 10 per cent on a like-for-like basis. At Dash they fell by less than 10 per cent and at Easter they were up by almost 10 per cent.

The group is launching a range of active leisurewear promoted by Rosemary Conley, the fitness expert. Costs have been cut and Lawrence Snyder, chairman, says a sales increase holds the key to a profits advance this year. Sales are up on the second half of last year but down on a month-for-month basis. Mr Snyder hopes for an upturn in the second half.

## BT offers gifts to inspire workers

BY ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BT staff who demonstrate commitment to the company's new customer service "values" are to be rewarded with a choice of 50 gifts under an incentive scheme being introduced by the telecoms group.

Food hampers, sports gear — and even telephones — will be offered to employees who are singled out by colleagues for their exemplary attitudes and actions.

The scheme is part of an effort by BT to reduce customer complaints to a tenth of their present level within five years, and to repair staff morale devastated by massive job cuts.

An in-house survey of employee attitudes earlier this year failed to evoke a response from 37 per cent of the workforce. Among those who replied, only a third were proud of the company, and 44 per cent feared for their jobs.

A BT spokesman denied any direct link between the introduction of incentives and the morale survey. But he stressed that managers had paid close attention to the findings of the staff survey.

Introduction of the new incentive scheme will coincide with a new series of commitments to be announced by BT on Thursday to streamline complaints procedures and improve services.

The BT scheme is regarded by the British Institute of Management as innovative because it applies to backroom staff, as well as those dealing directly with customers.

Details of the scheme are contained in a glossy booklet titled *Living our values* — saying thank you, sent to every BT employee. Inside, Michael Hetherington, BT's group managing director, details five "values" by which all BT should work. He says BT employees should put customers first; be professional; respect each other; work as one team; and be committed to continuous improvement.

Complaints are to be dealt with promptly and with understanding.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Inchcape increase beats forecast

INCHCAPE, the international motor distribution, marketing and services group, has reported a 6 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £185.2 million for the year to end-December, exceeding the £180 million forecast at the time of December's rights issue. As forecast, the final dividend is 7.5p, making 12.5p for the year, almost 6 per cent more than the 11.8p paid previously. The shares rose 13p to 428p.

The rights issue paid for Inchcape's December acquisition of Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn, which brought in the Wadham Stringer business. Charles Mackay, who succeeded Sir George Turnbull as chief executive last year, said the group was in a favourable position for future growth. *Times*, page 22

### Boxmore lifts payout

BOXMORE International, a packaging group based in Northern Ireland, increased its dividend after lifting pre-tax profits by 11.5 per cent to £3.06 million in the year to December 31. Turnover of the USM-quoted company rose by 20.5 per cent to £22.3 million. Claud Revell, chairman, said all the group's companies made profits except Airopak, which was acquired in the second half of 1991 and makes barrier-coated containers for the agro-chemical industry. Boxmore had £3.34 million net cash at the year-end. The final dividend is raised to 4.8p, from 4.4p last time, giving a total of 6.95p for the year (6.4p). Earnings were 23.9p a share (20.2p). The shares firmed 2p to 280p.

### Computer People falls

POOR market conditions on both sides of the Atlantic have forced Computer People Group, Britain's largest recruitment agency for computer staff, to cut its dividend after a 67.6 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £1.01 million from £3.11 million in the year to end-December. Revenues decreased by 11.2 per cent to £67.7 million. Final dividend is cut to 3.3p (4.1p), giving a reduced total of 5.4p (6.2p). Earnings drop to 5.48p a share (16.42p). There was a good improvement in the sales rate of the core United Kingdom consulting business in the early months of 1992, although market conditions remain tight. Higher profits are anticipated for the second half of 1992.

### Edinburgh Fund rises

EDINBURGH Fund Managers reports a 15 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £4.8 million for the year to end January. A final 8p makes 13p for the year — an increase of 8 per cent on the previous 12p. Funds under management soared 35 per cent to a record £1.9 billion. The increase comprises £200 million in new money and £300 million from the rise in world stock markets last year. Colin Ross, the chairman, said: "Upward momentum has come from falling interest rates rather than corporate profits, which have generally been in decline. The continuing sluggish trend in share prices leads us to view our income prospects for the current year with a degree of caution."

### Tuskar approached

TUSKAR Resources, the oil exploration company based in Dublin that is quoted on the USM, has received notice of an intended £4.36 million offer from Coplex Resources, an Australian natural resources group. The offer, on the basis of one Coplex share for 12 Tuskar shares, values each Tuskar ordinary at 1.66p and 1.78p. Coplex, capitalised at about £20 million, said its proposed offer reflects a premium of 32.8 per cent on the last traded London price and 9.54 per cent on the Dublin price. Tuskar shares were unchanged at 1p. Tuskar said that the nominal value of the intended offer, based on the Coplex share price last week, represents a premium of less than 10 per cent on the Dublin price.

## Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from close of business on 30th March 1992 the following **Business Deposit** rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:

	RATE PER ANNUM*	GROSS%	GROSS C.A.R.%
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### MANAGED ACCOUNT

#### Instant Access Cheque Account

£100,000+	8.75	9.04
£50,000-99,999	8.25	8.51
£10,000-49,999	7.50	7.71
£2,000-9,999	4.00	4.06
£1-1,999	1.25	1.26

### CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT\*\*

£100,000+	10.00	10.38
£50,000-99,999	9.50	9.84
£10,000-49,999	9.00	9.31
£2,000-9,999	7.00	7.19
£1-1,999	1.25	1.26

### PRACTICE CALL ACCOUNT†

£100,000+	9.75	10.11
£50,000-99,999	9.25	9.58
£10,000-49,999	9.00	9.31
£2,000-9,999	7.00	7.19
£1-1,999	1.25	1.26

**TSB**

WE WANT YOU TO SAY YES

Interest rates are variable. Interest paid quarterly. \*Before deduction of Basic Rate income tax. \*\*7 days notice of withdrawal required or equivalent loss of interest on amount withdrawn. †Minimum balance £2,000.

TSB Bank plc, 60 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9EA.

## Krupp man jailed for seven years

BOCHUM — The former chairman of Krupp Stahl, the main component of Krupp, the German industrial conglomerate, was sentenced yesterday to seven-and-a-half years in prison for defrauding his firm of millions of pounds.

Alfred Goedicke, aged 62, was sentenced at the end of a marathon three-year trial of three Krupp managers that saw 90 witnesses brought before the court.

Goedicke and his colleagues bought a metal recycling firm that was on the brink of bankruptcy and signed a contract to buy scrap metal from Krupp for a fraction of its real value.

The firm recycled the scrap and resold it for huge profits from 1984-6. The loss of revenue to Krupp was estimated at DM12 million marks (£4.19 million).

Goedicke's accomplices were sentenced to five years in jail and two years suspended terms in March 1990. (AFP).

## Loan data dent hope of upturn

FEBRUARY'S slump in bank and building society lending was even greater than indicated in provisional data last week, according to final money supply figures from the Bank of England (Colin Narborough writes).

The gloomy picture, offering scant hope of recovery this quarter, was reinforced by separate figures from the British Bankers' Association. This showed sterling lending in the three months to the end of February growing by only £2.06 billion, compared with £1.9 billion in the previous three months.

The Bank of England revised down to £285 million the February increase in M4 lending; the previously reported figure was £400 million. In January, the rise was £3.7 billion. The Bank confirmed that the annual rise in M0, the officially targeted narrow money measure, was 2.2 per cent in February, unchanged from January.

## Board changes at Owen & Robinson

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

OWEN & Robinson, the jewellery group, has had a boardroom shake-up, precipitated by institutional shareholder unrest and a warning that the group has insufficient reserves to pay preference dividends.

Michael Smith, former managing director of UK Retail at Laura Ashley, is to be finance director and Alan Gaynor, formerly chief executive of Underwood, chief executive. Tom Forsyth, group finance director and Tony Shasha, property director are to resign. The changes take effect tomorrow.

Mr Forsyth and Mr Shasha are believed to be receiving a small amount of compensation estimated at about £30,000. O&R said last month that results for the full year to end-January would show losses and there would be no final dividend. The group is negotiating with its bankers. Borrowings are be-



Gaynor: plan drawn up

lieved to be £5 million against facilities of £7 million.

Mr Gaynor was approached by Maurice Dwek, O&R's chairman five weeks ago. Mr Dwek is relinquishing the chief executive role.

Mr Gaynor, who has met with institutional shareholders, says a business plan has been drawn up and excessive head office costs will be brought under control.



## BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDATION

### NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS

The Liquidators of Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. ("BCCI SA"), Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited ("BCCI Overseas") and Credit and Finance Corporation Limited ("CFC"), appointed in Luxembourg, England, the Cayman Islands, Isle of Man and Scotland are issuing Special Proof of Debt Forms to known potential claimants.

All claims must be on the Special Proof of Debt Form only, fully completed, signed and dated and returned by 30 June 1992. Claims received after this date may be excluded from the initial distribution. If you do not receive the Proof of Debt Form by 11 April 1992, or are the holder of BCCI Travellers Cheques, please detach and return the slip below to the appropriate address given below:

- for BCCI SA in Luxembourg, to **PO Box 46, 25c Boulevard Royal, L2010 Luxembourg.**
- for BCCI SA in England, Scotland and Isle of Man, to **PO Box 150, 100 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3AD.**
- for BCCI SA in other locations, either to **PO Box 250** at the above address in London or the above Luxembourg address.
- for BCCI Overseas or CFC, to **PO Box 1358, Fort Street, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies.**
- for holders of all BCCI Travellers Cheques, to BCCI Travellers Cheques, **PO Box 450, 100 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3AD, United Kingdom.**

If you are unsure as to where to claim please contact Global Creditors Group, **PO Box 250, 100 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3AD, United Kingdom.**

If your account is restricted in any way, including "Hold Mail Instructions", you must submit a specific waiver of these instructions and provide appropriate authorisation in order for the Liquidators to send you the Special Proof of Debt Form.

A further notice and application form will be issued to creditors in connection with the proposed agreements with the Government of Abu Dhabi, as explained in the recent Summary of Agreements, after Court approval of the Agreements in the relative jurisdictions.

The procedure outlined above is for claims to be submitted in Luxembourg, England, the Cayman Islands, Isle of Man and Scotland. It is appreciated that many local officers have been appointed in other jurisdictions. Cooperation between the Liquidators and the local officers will be necessary before many creditors' claims can be admitted. In the circumstances creditors may wish to contact their local officers.

This notice only applies to BCCI SA, BCCI Overseas and CFC and their branches.

THE LIQUIDATORS OF BCCI SA, BCCI OVERSEAS AND CFC.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE A PROOF OF DEBT FORM BY 11 APRIL 1992 PLEASE DETACH THIS SLIP AND RETURN TO THE APPROPRIATE LIQUIDATOR AT THE ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE.

Please send a Proof of Debt Form to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate COMPANY: BCCI SA/BCCI OVERSEAS/CFC

BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate type of claim by a tick:

Trade Creditor: ☐

Travellers Cheque: ☐

Depositor (Number of accounts): ☐

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Claims (including Employees): ☐

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lucas to cut 1,000 jobs as pension fund boosts profit

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

LUCAS Industries, which has already shed 2,000 jobs in the past six months and a total of 8,000 jobs since July 1990, plans another 1,000 redundancies in the next six months, Sir Anthony Gill, the chairman, said yesterday.

The cutback is likely to affect up to 400 jobs in Britain, some of which will be lost through natural wastage.

Lucas, the technology systems and components group, has already charged £15.4 million against interim profits

in respect of reorganisation and redundancy costs in the six months to end January, of which £13.1 million related to redundancies.

Sir Anthony says overall charges for redundancy and reorganisation are likely to rise in the second half ending July. Second-half charges are likely to refer more to aerospace than automotive operations.

Lucas said its pension fund, Lucas Pensions Trust Limited, which has long enjoyed a handsome surplus, made a £90 million distribution to Lucas plc following approval last November by the various authorities.

The fund also dispersed more than £220 million in improved benefits for employees and pensioners and a £60 million payment to the Inland Revenue.

The current surplus remains in excess of £200 million. The trust holds 68.3 million ordinary shares, equivalent to 9.73 per cent of the equity, and 6.8 million warrants, representing an overall 9.96 per cent stake in Lucas.

Lucas Employees Trust owns 17.1 million Lucas shares and 1.7 million warrants, respectively 2.4 per cent and 2.5 per cent of shares and warrants.

The £90 million cash injection effectively allowed Lucas to maintain its interim dividend for the six months to end January at 2.1p a share, even though net earnings (ignoring the £90 million) slumped from 5.8p to 0.3p a share. At the operating level, Lucas reports profits of £17.1

million, compared with £68.8 million in the previous first half. Pre-tax profits, swelled by the pension item, were £90.2 million (£55.3 million).

In Britain, operating profits plunged from £29.3 million to £2.9 million, and in America previous profits of £6.7 million turned into £2.1 million operating losses.

Aerospace markets remained depressed and several defence projects ended. Demand for spares and repairs had declined as airlines de-stocked and laid up aircraft.

Lucas, however, expects the balance between military and civil orders to change, with civil orders accounting for at least 60 per cent.

Automotive interests were hurt by the 20 per cent drop in British passenger car production, though the March budget gives some encouragement to the industry, the chairman said.

Sir Anthony said that Lucas was continuing to invest in development programmes and new products. The company was also still cutting costs, and had won contracts.

Market conditions remained difficult in several areas, however, and automotive interests were still bumping along the bottom. There were signs of encouragement, "but to date we do not see a rapid upturn," Sir Anthony said.

The group expects to announce "soon" a replacement for David Hankinson, the finance director who resigned this month.

Temps, page 22



Bumping along: Sir Anthony says Lucas was hurt by drop in car production

## Pearson rules out any Mirror Group purchase

BY MARTIN WALLER

LORD Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, the diversified conglomerate that owns the *Financial Times*, has ruled out any further negotiations to buy the *Daily Mirror* or any other part of Mirror Group Newspapers.

He said although Pearson had not seen the detailed figures, it had a "pretty clear idea" of the company's finances and of the state of the pension fund. "We're not interested in any part of the Mirror Group," he added.

The group is interested in parts of the rest of the Maxwell empire, particularly Macmillan College Publishing, but does not expect these to become available for sale.

Pearson, which formally pulled out of the bidding for the *Mirror* in January but was rumoured still to be interested in other parts of the group, was unveiling 1991 figures slightly better than expected, prompting a 9p rise in the share price to 795p.

Pre-tax profits dropped from £226.3 million to £173.8 million, but a final payment of 12.5p maintains the total dividend at 23.25p.

Pearson took a £35 million extraordinary profit before tax in 1991 from the March sale of its stake in Elsevier, the Dutch publisher, although changes in accountancy practice meant this figure was reduced from the £229 million announced with the interim figures.

The conglomerate, whose interests include the Royal Doulton fine china business and a share in the Lazard Brothers merchant bank, as well as leisure activities such as Madame Tussauds and the Alton Towers amusement park, is relying on organic growth for expansion while

asking prices remain unacceptably high despite the recession, Lord Blakenham said.

"So far all the acquisitions that have come onto the market haven't really reflected the trading conditions in which all companies in this market have been operating for the past 18 months," he added.

The group is interested in buying more publishing businesses, however, with Asia and the Pacific Rim favoured areas.

Frank Barlow, Pearson's managing director and the chairman of BSkyB, the satellite television operation that is also partly owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, said the first clear returns from the business would become available to Pearson by the end of next year.

"I would be very surprised if BSkyB doesn't start to trade at a profit overall in the second half of 1993, and thereafter cash can flow out," he said. The business went into a small operating profit earlier this month, before interest charges. Pearson is a 16 per cent shareholder and guarantor to loans to the venture; the first clear returns would go to reducing those debts.

Pearson is making light of the threat from the opening this spring of the Euro Disney theme park near Paris, which some observers say will deflect custom from Alton Towers and Chessington, another leisure asset. Michael Herbert, chief executive in charge of entertainments, said the French park would boost trading for the better quality leisure complexes in Britain.

Temps, page 22

## MB builds high-rise profits in Germany

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

MB-CARADON, the building products, packaging and printing group, is benefiting from the building boom in Germany and stands to gain more if Bonn enacts legislation to encourage east Germans to move from solid fuel heating to gas. The group's continental business is helping to offset the fall in profits from its British building products activity.

Demand for the group's radiators in Germany has been such that in addition to supplying that market from its European plants, MB is exporting British-made radiators.

Overall, the group made pre-tax profits of £106 million in the year to December 31, compared with £102 million in 1990. Turnover fell from £696 million to £679 million. Trading profits rose 3 per cent to £125 million, including an unchanged contribution of £31.8 million from MB's 25.1 per cent stake in CMB Packaging. Fully diluted earnings per share were unchanged at 15p and the final dividend has been held at 5.75p, making an unchanged 8.5p for the year.

A £149 million rights issue at 205p last October reduced gearing from 67 to 8 per cent. The rights issue reduced the net interest payable by £2.7 million. The shares rose 9p to 259p yesterday on the results, which were better than expected.

Peter Jansen, chief executive, said operating profits in building products and security printing rose by 5 per cent to £93.7 million, despite difficult UK trading conditions. Results in the second half were much stronger than in the first: the security printing business, which had been down 17 per cent in the first half, bounced back to end the year up 17 per cent at £31.8 million.

In the UK, operating profits of the building products division fell by 9 per cent to £48 million but Mr Jansen said that, given the state of the market, he was pleased with the figure.

Costs have been cut. About 900 jobs, 13 per cent of the total, went in 1991 and the workforce is to be trimmed by a further 6 per cent in the first half of this year. Overseas, the building products division increased operating profits by 45 per cent to £13.9 million.

Mr Jansen said: "So far this year, the overall profitability of the managed businesses is showing a significant increase over the corresponding period last year, although the first quarter of 1991 was particularly difficult."

## Attali fights alone in eastern Europe

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

FEW international financial institutions have come in for as much flak as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Debate over the bank, which has the task of helping the nations of eastern Europe, tends to focus not on what it is doing but on its guiding principles and indeed the need for its existence.

Next month, the European Bank will celebrate its first anniversary, and yesterday, Jacques Attali, its president, presented the first annual report for 1991. The European Bank has various functions and cannot be classified either as a development bank or as an investment bank. It is a hybrid, and M Attali insists that it has a political mandate as well. The bank exists to channel international funds into public and private-sector projects throughout eastern Europe.

So far, the European Bank has committed £20 million (£450 million) in loans and equity to about 20 projects. Compared with what is needed, this is a drop in the ocean.

The drop is growing bigger, however. In the present financial year, M Attali hopes to lend £1 billion and in 1993, £2 billion. The difficulty, he said yesterday, is not shortage of capital but a shortage of eastern European projects worth investing in, especially since the European Bank invests only in ventures that private investors would not risk on their own.

Romania attracted most of the funds (30 per cent), closely followed by Hungary.

About three times as much flowed into Romania as into Czechoslovakia, usually thought of as the most advanced country in eastern Europe, offering the best investment prospects. Just under half the bank's investment went into telecommunications.

A high proportion of the bank's lending went into infrastructure projects, ranging from telecommunications to food distribution. Such projects are essential prerequisites of a functioning market economy. Eastern Europe's most urgent need, however, is access to western Europe's markets and the establishment of a stabilisation fund to create hard currencies and reduce trade deficits. The first issue is a matter for the EC; the second, one for the International Monetary Fund and the G7.

Without stable currencies and free trade, M Attali's investments will be not just drops in the ocean, but drops down the drain.



Attali: political mandate

## Hickson raises dividend

BY OUR CITY STAFF

HICKSON International, the chemicals group that cut debt with the help of a £70 million rights issue in September, says it now has "renewed vigour and purpose".

Pre-tax profits in the year ended December fell from £227.7 million to £23.7 million, after £2.44 million of exceptional costs, on a turnover of £367.4 million. The final dividend of 5.15p a share on the enlarged capital makes 7.82p (7.5p) for the year.

Sir Gordon Jones, chairman, says gearing is down to 15 per cent (134 per cent), and that the disposal of non-core businesses is nearing completion — £26 million raised in 1991, and a further £11 million so far in 1992.

He says: "It was a year in which Hickson faced its problems," adding that management's focus is now on the development of the mainstream chemical operations.

Action has been taken to reduce costs, and £3.4 million was absorbed by redundancies. Annual savings of more than £5 million achieved will continue through 1992 and beyond, the group says.

Hickson made an exceptional £6.6 million provision, within an overall charge that nets off at £2.44 million, in relation to litigation concerning floor coverings interests in America, and environmental costs.

There is an extraordinary £24.6 million charge (£11.7 million) taken below the profit line, of which £14.9 million relates to goodwill and £8.5 million on the loss on disposal of the merchant distributors division. The shares closed 1p lower at 185p.

## Abbey ponders its surfeit of riches

BY JON ASHWORTH

ONE of the biggest cash piles in British banking history is there for the taking but those entitled to it are apparently uninterested.

Abbey National, the building society that became a bank, is sitting on up to £100 million in shares. These were offered to customers at the time of the stock market flotation in July 1989 but remain unclaimed. From July, three years after the share issue, Abbey is entitled to sell them off. There are quite a few people who would like a slice of the pie.

Abbey's customers were offered 100 free shares each at the time of conversion, but many have failed to claim their due, worth about £276, despite several reminders.

With three months to go before "the big sell-off", no one seems to know how much the unclaimed shares are worth. As many as 390,000 shares, with a value of up to £100 million, could be at stake, but many of the certificates might

be duplicates. Abbey has several options. A mass sale of shares would flood the market, drive down the price and upset existing shareholders. Cancelling the outstanding shares would drive the price up. Legal advice is being taken.

If Abbey is not exactly drawing a veil of secrecy over the shares, it is being a little evasive. After all, just think what £100 million could do for the balance sheet. Not to mention the £60 million cost of the mortgage rescue scheme it launched last month to bail out homeowners.

Simon Canney, a shareholder, has suggested it might be a good idea to give the shares to Shelter, the charity for the homeless, which has benefited from Abbey before. At the time of the conversion, customers were free to assign their shares to charity, and Shelter was enriched to the tune of £350,000.

Mr Canney was keen to put a resolution at Abbey's annual meeting on April 22, but was told that under the Companies Act, he would have to pick up the tab for notifying the 5.6 million share-

holders. Since that would cost about £500,000, it is a bit beyond his means. Members could vote to reimburse him at the meeting, but who would want to gamble on that?

Abbey insists it does not know how much the shares are worth. There is no doubt, however, that a sizeable sum is at stake, and deciding what to do with it should produce some fun and games.

The Abbey flotation was one of the most chaotic the City has seen. Shareholders were soon grumbling that delays in returning cheques had cost them hundreds of pounds in interest.

Some shareholders were given too many shares by mistake and had to give them back. About 120,000 letters were lost owing to a computer error and thousands of certificates were sent out late.

Finally, the charred remains of about 365,000 Abbey share certificates were discovered in two skips in Greenwich, south-east London. It was not a happy ending to the flotation.

The next chapter is about to unfold.

## The Swire Group Swire Pacific Limited 1991 FINAL RESULTS

**Audited Consolidated Results.** The profit attributable to shareholders for the year ended 31st December 1991 was US\$394.8 million, as compared with US\$314.1 million for the previous year. This represents an increase of 25.7%.

	1991 US\$M	1990 US\$M
Turnover	4,310.1	3,996.7
Operating profit	746.4	630.5
Net finance charges	70.4	48.8
Net operating profit	676.0	581.7
Associated companies	48.2	31.2
Profit before taxation and minorities	724.2	612.9
Taxation	101.2	88.5
Minority interests	228.2	210.3
Profit attributable to shareholders	394.8	314.1

	US\$	US\$
Earnings per share:		
'A' shares	24.9	19.8
'B' shares	5.0	4.0

	US\$	US\$
Dividends per share:		
'A' shares - interim	2.9	2.9
- final, recommended	8.5	7.3
	11.4	10.2

	US\$	US\$
'B' shares - interim	0.6	0.6
- final, recommended	1.7	1.5
	2.3	2.1

	US\$	US\$
Net assets per share:		
'A' shares	2.81	2.30
'B' shares	0.56	0.46

Exchange rate used: US\$1=HK\$7.80

**Divisional Results.** Cathay Pacific Airways' 1991 results were 1.5% lower than those of the previous year, with a revenue load factor for the year of 71.0% compared with 74.3% for 1990. Set against the background of the Gulf War and continuing world-wide recession this should be considered a satisfactory outcome. Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company had a good year, with an increase in profits of 10.8%, despite inflationary pressures. Swire Properties' 1991 profits were higher than those of the previous year reflecting increased rental income from its portfolio of investment properties. The Offshore Oil and Shipping Services Division once again recorded good growth in profitability from its Hong Kong operations, whilst improved market conditions resulted in reduced losses from offshore activities.

The Industries Division's operating profits showed substantial growth over 1990 though Swire Magnetics continues to record losses during the rationalisation of its operations. The disposal of Swire Bottlers' former plant in Quarry Bay at a good profit further improved results. Both the Trading Division and the Insurance Division reported higher profits in 1991, reflecting improved market conditions.

**Financing.** Consolidated net borrowings at the end of 1991, including the indirect borrowings represented by finance leasing obligations, amounted to US\$1,363.5 million, compared with US\$1,361.7 million at the end of 1990. In addition, market auction preferred shares with a value of US\$300 million were issued during 1991 by a subsidiary company, enabling certain borrowings to be repaid, and were outstanding at the end of 1991. The increase in overall amounts due for net borrowings and market auction preferred shares reflects a high level of capital expenditure during the year.

**Final Dividends.** Final dividends to be recommended at the Annual General Meeting on 28th May 1992 amount to US\$8.5 per 'A' share and US\$1.7 per 'B' share, an increase of 15.8% over the final dividends for 1990. Share registers will be closed from 18th May 1992 to 22nd May 1992, both dates inclusive, and dividends will be payable on 4th June 1992 to shareholders registered on 22nd May 1992.

**Investment Properties and Net Asset Value.** The annual valuation at open market value of the Group's investment properties, both completed and under development, was carried out at 31st December 1991 by Jones Lang Wootton. The 1991 valuation, at US\$3,876.2 million, has resulted in an increase of US\$625.0 million in the valuation reserves of the Group. Taking into account both the retained earnings in 1991 and the increase in the valuation of investment properties, the net asset value of the Swire Pacific Group at 31st December 1991 was US\$4,466.0 million.

**Prospects.** The current year has started well for both the Aviation and Property Divisions. Demand for air travel continues the recovery seen in the second half of 1991 and Cathay Pacific Airways expects, in the absence of adverse economic and currency factors, to record improved profits in the year ahead. Swire Properties' investment property portfolio will increase with the completion of Cityplaza 3 and 4, and a continued growth in rental income is expected. Companies within the other divisions are well placed to benefit from improved markets for their respective activities. Overall the prospects for the Swire Pacific Group are encouraging.

The Annual Report for 1991 will be sent to shareholders on 4th May 1992.

D A Gledhill  
Chairman  
Hong Kong, 26th March 1992

Swire Pacific Limited



# BSkyB pledge brightens Pearson picture

PEARSON'S shares have staged an abrupt recovery since the start of this year as expectations have risen for BSkyB, in which it has a 16 per cent stake. Those expectations were reinforced yesterday when the group, chaired by Lord Blakenham, forecast that shareholders would see the first clear returns from the venture by the end of next year.

That pledge was accompanied by better-than-expected figures for 1991, which moved the share price ahead 9p to 795p, and dealers were further encouraged by a one-for-one scrip issue. But there looked to be little to become excited about for the current year.

Pearson's pre-tax profits came in at £173.8 million, down 23 per cent from the dividend is maintained, but cover slips from 2.5 to 1.9 times earnings per share, which looks slim for a business as traditionally risk-averse as Pearson.

With the number of operating oil wells in America down year-on-year by a third, oil services is set for a tough time in 1992, while despite the group's confidence on the longer-term implications of Euro Disney to its leisure activities such as Alton Towers, it is hard to see the Paris opening benefiting those businesses this year.

Colin Tennant at UBS Phillips & Drew is looking for

£190 million pre-tax this year, putting the shares on a premium rating of 16 times prospective earnings. The rating is deserved, given the high quality of the businesses that make up the group and the low gearing, but little further progress seems justified.

## Lucas

LUCAS Industries' pension funds, recognising that one good deed deserves another, have come to the aid of a dear friend in desperate need.

Lucas Pensions Trust, holding an overall 9.96 per cent of Lucas in shares and warrants, has repaid £90 million to Lucas after November's resolution of the shareholders' meeting.

The gesture proves most timely, facilitating the declaration of an unchanged, and now covered, 2.1p interim dividend. The £90 million should at least secure this year's final dividend too, and comes when Lucas's operating profits in the six months to end January would otherwise have demanded different action.

In the early Eighties, pension fund fortunes were more closely tied to the Lucas group because of a 13 per cent equity holding. They were, therefore, much relieved in those dark days when Lucas held dividends on the back of losses.

Reflecting a tough and difficult six months, Lucas shows operating profits down 75 per cent at £17.1 million, and diluted net earnings (excluding the £90 million) of 0.5p (5.8p) a share.

The half-time results bear a £15.4 million charge for reorganisation and redundancy costs, against £1.9 million, and there is more to come in the second half. Meanwhile, UK operating profits slumped from £29.3 million to £2.9 million, Continental profits halved, and losses in North America totalled £2.1 million, against profits of £6.7 million.

July-end 1992 profits might only be £25 million (£83.6 million), but there could be recovery in next year, should the specialist automotive and aerospace markets advance. Lucas's yield, at a prospective 8.3 per cent, are the shares' best attractions.

## Inchcape

APART from the name and some residual timber interests, the Nineties Inchcape bears little resemblance to the colonial trading group of old. However, the inheritance of a strong presence in the markets of Eastern Asia has come into its own as the European and American trading blocs continue to suffer economic stagnation. More than half the group's profits are de-

rived from the Far East, which, with the exception of Singapore, boasts the world's healthiest regional economy.

But the group's robust 6 per cent pre-tax profits growth to £185.2 million last year was more than just historical accident. Under the dynamic direction of Sir George Turnbull, the group gave its sprawling international interests a sharper focus and Charles Mackay, the new chief executive, has continued with an acquisition spree.

Profits from Tote Kemley Millbourne, acquired for nine times historic earnings, come on stream from March, with the prospect of £4 to £5 million of annual cost savings by 1993 through a merger with Inchcape's existing UK car dealerships. If TKM is included on a pro-forma basis, the motor activities contributed more than 60 per cent of profits last year. This is expected to ease as the faster growing marketing and services divisions increase their contribution. With year-end gearing at only 18 per cent, acquisitions in these sectors are likely.

A forecast of £275 million pre-tax profits for the current year means that the shares are changing hands at a still undemanding 12.4 times prospective earnings. The bottom of the cycle timing of the TKM deal means that the shares should be bought at current levels.



Strong signal: Lord Blakenham expects Pearson to see satellite returns soon

## Finance in place at Brent

Brent Walker Group, the debt-plagued leisure combine, confirmed completion of its financial restructuring, with all parties now signed up and the scheme taking effect from yesterday. Trading in the new ordinary shares and the various preference shares, notes and warrants issued as a result starts today.

The restructuring requires the banks to swap some of the £1.6 billion debt into equity, with the rest deferred until 1997. Talks with the banks first started 16 months ago.

## Kinder moves

Merchant Retail, which operates Norman's supermarkets in the South-West and Joplins' department stores in the North-East, has appointed Eric Kinder, the chairman of Smith & Nephew, the healthcare group, as chairman. Michael Swan steps down as chairman to become non-executive deputy chairman.

## M&G trust

M&G, the investment group, raised £129.8 million with its second investment trust, which closed on Friday. The M&G Recovery Investment Trust attracted £113.6 million from the public, £104.8 million of which was in personal equity plans.

## Mercury sale

Mercury Communications, part of Cable and Wireless, has sold its Cass Group offshoot to its management.

## Fears of further bad debt disturb banks

THE outlook for the banking sector remains bleak and it seems that provisions for bad and doubtful debts may have to be increased to cope with the number of businesses that go to the wall.

Share prices of the big four banks spent another difficult session, still reflecting their exposure to the problems at Olympia & York and the privately owned Heron International. But it is not just the big companies that are finding the going tough. A survey by Dun & Bradstreet International, the business information company, showed that the number of bankruptcies among smaller companies is still climbing. City analysts seem agreed that further provisions by the banks will have to be made.

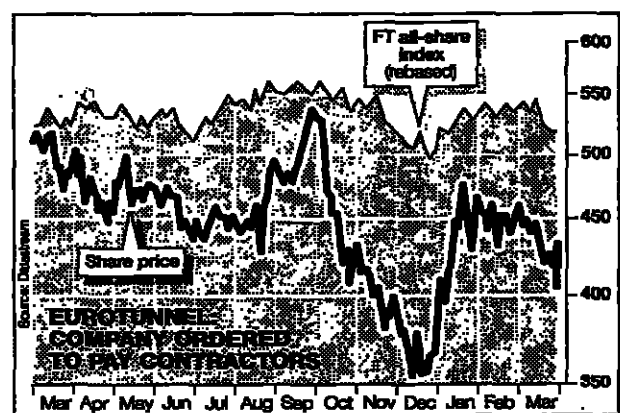
Stockbrokers Kleinwort Benson and rival County NatWest WoodMac both decided to cut their profit estimates yesterday. Worst hit was Barclays, down 5p at 317p, as Kleinwort slashed its forecast from £690 million to £540 million and County cut its estimate by £100 million to £590 million. Klein-

wort also trimmed £50 million apiece from both Lloyds, 2p easier at 385p, and National Westminster, 1p lighter at 279p, where Tom Frost has just stepped down as chief executive.

County cut its forecast for Lloyds by £100 million to £650 million and for Midland, 7p better at 357p, by £35 million to £225 million. The Midland price was buoyed by reports that it had previously rejected a bid of £4 a share from Lloyds in favour of the offer from Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank.

The rest of the equity market was surprisingly resilient despite claims over the weekend that it would open sharply lower in the wake of the latest election opinion polls and news of heavy losses on Wall Street. In the event, share prices clawed back an early mark-down to finish 5.0 up at 2,452.9.

Turnover of 402 million was boosted by a late surge of bed-and-breakfasting in order to establish a year-end tax loss. Genuine retail demand remained scant in the current volatile conditions. Govern-



ment securities shrugged off recent nervousness to finish with gains of 1p at the longer end. Property shares remained weak, overshadowed by the

5p to 68p, Progress Estates 4p to 276p, Great Portland 4p to 144p, Hammerson 8p to 451p, Land Securities 8p to 395p and M&P 11p to 312p.

Tomorrow, EOC Group shares will become part of the top 100. The price firmed 5p to 495p in anticipation yesterday and have outperformed the rest of the market by 22 per cent since July 1990. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, believes now is the time to sell.

problems of Olympia & York and Heron. There were setbacks for Perry Bilton, down 8p at 410p, British Land 8p to 178p, Estates & General

Eurotunnel, fell 33p to 405p after being ordered to pay an extra £50 million a month to Trans Manche Link, the consortium of com-

panies building the tunnel. Eurotunnel has been locked in a bitter row with the contractors over cost overruns for some time. But the decision by a panel of arbitrators has been attacked by Eurotunnel. It says there is no basis for tripling the monthly payments from £25 million to £75 million. Eurotunnel has until April 30, to contest the decision.

Lombard, the international trading group headed by Tiny Rowland, continued to lose ground, falling 8p to 79p, after touching 75p, as analysts and fund managers speculated over the wisdom of last week's sale of a stake in its Metropole Hotels chain to the Libyans.

Lombard's biggest independent shareholder, America's Fidelity Life, is worried by the link at a time when sanctions against Libya over the release of the Lockerbie bombers are being considered. The market is becoming increasingly worried that Fidelity may choose to dispose of its 10 per cent stake in Lombard by dumping the shares.

Pearson, the publishing to

merchant banking and entertainment group, jumped 8p to 794p after revealing figures at the top end of expectations. Even though pre-tax profits were down from £226.3 million to £173.8 million, analysts said the final outcome could have been worse. Newspaper publishing and the banking operations were the worst hit. It is being proposed that the shares be split in half.

A £90 million pension fund surplus helped Lucas Industries, the automotive parts group, to report pre-tax profits up from £55.3 million to £90.2 million, but had it not been for the surplus, the broken group would have only just broken even. The shares fell 7p to 112p.

Inchcape, the international services company which last year bought car distributor Tote Kemley, weighed in with another healthy increase in full-year profits. At the pre-tax level, they were £11.2 million higher at £185.2 million. The shares responded with a 13p rise to 428p.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Allianz and Dresdner fight cartel charge

By Philip Pangalos

GERMANY'S Allianz, Europe's largest insurance group, and Dresdner Bank, the country's second largest bank, are tending off an assault by anti-trust authorities following German press reports that their direct or indirect shareholdings are much larger than previously disclosed.

Germany's anti-cartel office said it would order Allianz to reduce its stake in Dresdner Bank, although Allianz denied that its stake breaches German competition laws. The move followed reports that the Federal Office had only recently been informed that Allianz either directly or indirectly owned 47 per cent of the bank, much higher than previously disclosed.

"The percentage of 47 per cent is not correct... in fact Allianz has a 22.3 per cent stake in Dresdner Bank," the insurer said in a statement.

Banking and insurance analysts mostly doubted that Allianz would have to sell its stake in Dresdner.

The insurer said the mutual stakes are held to cement the marketing co-operation deal and should be seen as long-term investments. The two groups were not aiming to influence each other's business policy, Allianz stressed. Dresdner, which has a 10 per cent stake in Allianz, also denied that they exerted influence on each other's business strategy.

Cornhill Insurance, part of Allianz, divested more than £39 million into the red in 1991 and gave warning that 1992 would be another poor year. The losses for the year to end-December, 1991, compare with a profit of £30.8 million in 1990.

The general underwriting loss surged to £102.1 million, against a loss of £39.5 million.

## BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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Tenders are invited for the purchase of the centre as one unit. Should no satisfactory offers be forthcoming, consideration would be given to the disposal of the centre in parts.

For further details contact Cooke, Wood & Caird, 154 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1NU. Tel: 0248 362414 Fax: 0248 362285

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### MAJOR CHANGES

RISES: 1265p (+18p)

ICI 365p (+15p)

Johnson Corp 755p (+10p)

Pearson 754p (+8p)

General Accident 403p (+5p)

Inchcape 429p (+13p)

MB-Caradon 229p (+9p)

SBC 1062p (+9p)

FALLS: 337p (-23p)

Auto Sec 81p (-8p)

Land Sec 285p (-8p)

Securicor A 558p (-8p)

Mortland 443p (-10p)

Hammerston 451p (-8p)

Realty 119p (-8p)

Templeman Eng Misc C 100p (-9p)

Usher-Walker RFD 111p (-2p)

News Corp 775p (-15p)

Eurotunnel Units 405p (-33p)

Softeye 825p (-13p)

MEPC 312p (-11p)

P Fallon 510p (-8p)

Closing Prices..Page 25

### RECENT ISSUES

Armistice Smaller Units 500p 463

Armistice Group 104p 378

Bathurst Ind (AFD) 103

CPJ Leisure 22

Capital Industries 1p 57

Farthing Ind & Co 15p 66

do Urea 102p 98

do Zero Div PFI 50p 122

Farth Pire 110p 71

Headman Group (RFD) 71

Latin Amer Inc & Ap 810p 111

Multinet Warrane 11

Pladium A 4p

River & Merc Tst Inc 12p 103

do Spped PFI 12p 123

Realty 119p 127

Templeman Eng Misc C 100p 99

Usher-Walker RFD 111p 158

News Corp 775p 155

Eurotunnel Units 405p 150

Softeye 825p 150

MEPC 312p 119

P Fallon 510p 86

Auto Sec 81p 86

Land Sec 285p 86

Securicor A 558p 86

Mortland 443p 100

Hammerston 451p 100

Realty 119p 100

Templeman Eng Misc C 100p 100

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Auto Sec 81p 100

Land Sec 285p 100

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Hammerston 451p 100

Realty 119p 10



## Blue Arrow still dogs NatWest

Tom Frost has been in an increasingly lonely and untenable position as chief executive of National Westminster, which he took up only months before executives of its County NatWest subsidiary embarked on the ill-fated Blue Arrow rights issue, then cooked up an initially successful deception about the extent of its failure, leading the bank to try to cover some of its traces. Two joint deputy chief executives and an executive director, who been told about the manoeuvres at an early stage, resigned after being criticised in a DTI inspectors report. Lord Boardman, NatWest's previous chairman, did the decent thing although not directly involved, perhaps to remove that burden from Mr Frost and leave the bank with some leadership. Three County NatWest executives were convicted of what the court termed fraud.

Mr Frost was not involved in the plan of deception. No evidence has emerged that he knew about what had happened until months later. He was not criticised in the first inspectors' report or the judge's summing up at the trial. Inevitably, however, he was involved in subsequent board decisions that were misguided. He was also criticised in evidence at the trial, not least over his dealings with the Bank of England. The hopes of Lord Alexander, NatWest's chairman, that the affair might die down after the trial were optimistic. When he asked for a new investigation in the wake of critical press comment he was only pre-empting the possibility, quickly realised, that the DTI would act on its own anyway. The surprise is that Lord Alexander, a distinguished and experienced barrister, and Mr Frost, who had lived through the earlier DTI inquiry, did not immediately realise that this would take much of Mr Frost's time and cloud his reputation for months.

Nearing retirement, Mr Frost might have taken the rap for NatWest's terrible trading performance. That he did not do so may have stemmed from the idea that this would have been interpreted as admitting blame on the Blue Arrow affair. Sadly for Mr Frost, he will not see the benefits of the reforms he has set in train to switch NatWest's emphasis away from ambition to the bottom line.

## Fair pay for all

So far executive pay has not become an election issue. Perhaps this is just as well for corporate Britain which has collectively failed to devise some guidelines which pass muster as fair and sensible in the broad public view. A new survey by the British Institute of Management appears to show that last year one set of guidelines applied for directors of large companies and quite different one for those working in small businesses. The big firms paid their board members an average 9.3 per cent more during 1991 while a broader sample taking in smaller enterprises showed gains of 3.3 per cent. Managers included in the survey of 24,000 executives fared better than many directors taking home 6.1 per cent more pay than previously.

The central difficulty for business is that the processes for fixing pay are far less transparent than they might be and therefore capable of much misinterpretation. There is little or no public awareness of the market forces at work which tend to drive up the pay of capable business leaders who can skills and decisions can produce profit rises which far outstrip normal rates of inflation. Without greater openness in the pay fixing process, business runs the risk that its leaders will be suspected of breaking the link between performance and pay which can be accepted and understood from the shop floor upwards.

## Labour's economic advisers, John Eatwell and Karen Gardiner claim the party's tax plans will not squeeze the middle classes

The Labour party's budget has been the subject of a series of critical articles by Anatole Kaletsky in *The Times*. Mr Kaletsky's most striking claims are that John Smith's proposals will leave "Britain's middle classes paying far higher taxes than under the last Labour government", but "for most of Labour's gains the benefits are paltry". Both propositions are very misleading.

In none of his articles does Mr Kaletsky acknowledge that Labour's reform of National Insurance contributions has removed two large anomalies. First, the "part-time workers' poverty trap" has been abolished. The flat rate "entry fee" was responsible for a marginal tax rate in excess of 100 per cent on earnings of £54 a week. Second, the removal of the upper earnings limit has eliminated what was, on incomes above £21,060, a quasi poll tax — unrelated to ability to pay.

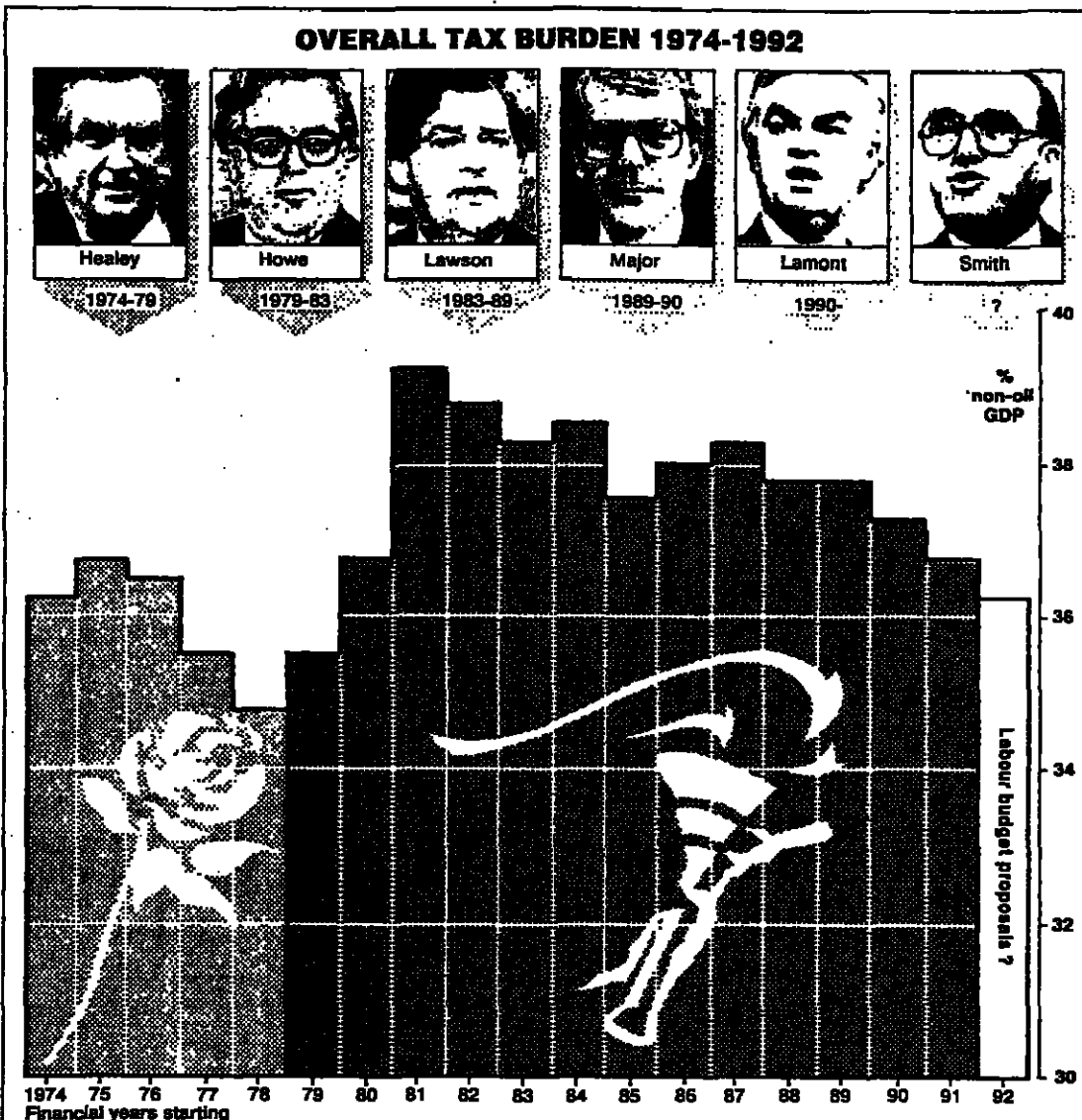
It is easy for the well-to-do to dismiss small gains for poorer people as "paltry". But a "paltry" £4 a week for a family on £8,000 is an income gain of 2.6 per cent. Comparable, surely, to a loss of £14.20 a week for a family on £30,000, also 2.6 per cent of income.

Furthermore, by criticising Labour's pension and child benefit increases as "untargeted", Mr Kaletsky chooses to ignore both the substantial research which demonstrates that child benefit is highly efficient in the relief of poverty (see for example, Joan Brown, "Why don't they go to work? Mothers on benefit", Social Security Advisory Committee, HMSO 1989), and the fact that pensions are taxable.

Mr Kaletsky's central allegation that Labour's tax regime is "punitive" is based on an approach that ignores the contemporary research. His argument is presented in a form that has been rejected by experts on the impact of tax and benefit systems. Professor A B Atkinson, the foremost authority in the field, said in a letter to *The Times* (March 21) the "articles by Anatole Kaletsky demonstrate the potentially misleading nature of hypothetical calculations... This is why research on taxation policy has moved on in the past five years — to the use of tax-benefit models based on surveys of the population. Such a model has been used in the examination of Mr Smith's budget plans by the Institute for Fiscal Studies".

The difficulties referred to by Professor Atkinson arise from the complex structure of tax allowances and benefits, and from the fact that the "typical" family does not exist. It is, therefore, easy to choose examples that are systematically biased in support of apparently general conclusions, such as Mr Kaletsky's

# Where will John Smith's tax burden really fall?



Financial years starting

Unprecedented fiscal punishment for the middle class.

To compare Mr Smith's budget with Denis Healey's tax regime, Mr Kaletsky uses the example of a married man, today earning £30,000 with a mortgage equal to twice his income. He does not point out that in 1978-9 tax relief would apply to all the mortgage interest, at a basic rate of 33 per cent, whereas in 1992 only half his mortgage interest would be eligible for relief, at 25 per cent. These changes cost Mr Kaletsky's man more than £1,200.

If the same man had no mortgage, he would be £500 better off under Mr Smith's proposals compared to Mr Healey's, not £700 worse off as a reworking of Mr Kaletsky's analysis would suggest. (On March 16, Mr Kaletsky used the figure of £1,500 worse off. That figure was produced prior to the publication of Mr Smith's budget and was not based on his proposals).

Mr Kaletsky uses the same technique to argue that Labour made an "error" in locating its top-rate income tax bands, claiming that Mr Smith has set the 50 per cent rate at a much lower point than did Nigel Lawson. Again, by including particular allowances in determination of the bands, he biases his case. If all allowances are ignored, and bands defined purely in terms of taxable income (as they are in the Red Book)

then in 1987-8 Mr Lawson's 50 per cent band began at the equivalent £35,814, and Mr Smith's 50 per cent band will begin at £36,375.

Statistical bias is compounded by diagrammatic bias. Mr Kaletsky's diagram of marginal tax rates, which has been widely reproduced, ignores the abolition of the NIC's "entry fee", and is drawn so that the 90 per cent of the population who gain under Labour are confined to 10 per cent of the space, and 90 per cent of the space is devoted to the 10 per cent who will contribute more.

The diagram embodies the persistent middle between the burden of tax and the marginal rate of taxation. The burden of taxation is measured by the average rate — the proportion of total income paid in tax. Under Mr Smith's proposals a married man with no other allowances has a lower average tax rate than under Mr Healey, and so is better off, up to a £33,000 income.

The impact of Mr Smith's budget on so-called "middle-class incomes" today should be considered using the IFS population survey technique, which looks at real families. This shows more than half the families earning £26,000 to £31,000 a year will be better off under Mr Smith's proposals, and one in three families earning £31,000 to £52,000

also gain. Hardly a hammering of the middle classes. The truth about Mr Smith's proposals has been spelt out by the IFS and Labour. Not only do eight out of ten families gain, but the average burden of all tax would be lower in 1992 (36.25 per cent) than when John Major was Chancellor (37.25 per cent).

Mr Smith's proposals do not represent the "biggest ever increase in taxation" as the Conservative party has claimed. That, as Mr Kaletsky noted, was imposed by Geoffrey Howe in 1981. Nor do Mr Smith's proposals make Britain more highly taxed than other leading industrial countries in Europe — average tax rates are broadly in line with France and Germany. Finally, much has been said about the impact of Mr Smith's plans on "middle income". Someone in the middle of the income distribution earns £13,480: 50 per cent of full-time employees earn less than that. Everyone on middle income, and well above, will gain from Mr Smith's budget.

John Eatwell is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and economic adviser to Neil Kinnock. Karen Gardiner is on leave from the LSE, working for John Smith.

Election 92, pages 7-11  
Daily, page 14  
Leading article and Letters, page 15  
Magnus Linklater, L&T page 1

## Treuhand expands to export its errors

The German Treuhand, which will go down in the history books as the world's most indebted holding company, is expanding into eastern Europe.

The agency responsible for the privatisation of former east German state combines is setting up a subsidiary to advise other eastern Europeans on how to privatise their enterprises. More to the point, as Birgit Breuel, the Treuhand president, has come close to admitting, the Treuhand will prove most useful on the issue of how not to privatise. That is a subject Treuhand officials are familiar with after numerous scandals, frauds and increasing outbreaks of public discontent.

After almost two years of hectic privatisation, east Germany's underlying unemployment is the highest in eastern Europe, and there are few signs of improvement. Some heretics have even dared to suggest that the approach to privatisation might not have been correct.

The new subsidiary, Treuhand Osteuropa Beratungsgesellschaft, is to help Russia, in particular, with its enormous privatisation task. The consultancy will, appropriately, take the form of a non-profitable organisation. Eastern Europeans might, however, be asking themselves whether they need even more good advice on top of what they already receive from a confusing number of western institutions.

The Treuhand model of privatisation involves wholesale selling of companies, normally to the highest bidders but not always. The organisation gobbles up debts, yet despite the sale of several thousand firms, it has done little to lift the east Germans out of their economic misery.

Leonid Abalkin, a former Soviet deputy prime minister, was once asked whether the Treuhand model might be the right approach for Russia. He said: "We are capable of making our own mistakes, we do not need to repeat yours." East Germany and the rest of eastern Europe differ substantially, because east Germany introduced Europe's hardest currency overnight, and subsequently received massive subsidies from the west.

What, precisely, the Treuhand has to offer eastern Europe is unclear. One of Frau Breuel's pieces of advice is to stop speculators. "Eastern Europe has to learn to stop letting gold diggers get their hands on property," she says.

The Treuhand has been accused of selling the "good bits" to west German companies, and only then turning abroad to lure foreign investors. This might not be a wholly fair criticism, but the Treuhand has itself to blame, since it began with a German-first approach.

In any event, as the Treuhand becomes more controversial inside Germany, the Germans are trying to export their model abroad. East Europeans had better remember Dr Abalkin.

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
European Business Correspondent

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Boxing not so clever

LIFE as a private client stockbroker may be dull at times, but Tim Loughton, one of the City's most able exponents, seems to have gone to extremes to find excitement. Loughton, a director of Fleming private asset management, is contesting the staunchly Labour seat of Sheffield Brightside, and has spent the past fortnight trying to woo voters. A film crew from Yorkshire Television persuaded him to dress as a boxer last week to parody the "double-whammy" Tory poster that hits out at the supposed threat of higher taxes and higher inflation. Decked in blue shorts and gloves, he was thrust into the ring for a "friendly" spar with Brendan Ingle, a Yorkshire trainer and avowed socialist. As the cameras rolled, Ingle's feelings seem to have got the better of him, and the hapless Loughton was soon laid out on the canvas. "It was humiliating rather than painful," says Loughton, aged 29, who looks none the worse for his ordeal.

### Ronsons rally

AS GERALD Ronson, Britain's 16th richest man, prepares for a crucial meeting with his bankers on Friday, his family appears to be rallying round. Ronson and his wife, Gail, were treated to Sunday lunch by their daughter, Lisa, a broker at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Lisa, aged 22, signed her credit card voucher with a smile at Mezzaluna, an Italian restaurant close to the family's £5 million mansion in Hamp-



"The way out? Follow the blue arrows."

stead Garden Suburb, north-west London. Ronson is asking for more time to repay Heron International's £1.2 billion of debt.

### Stora still grows

BO BERGGREN, president of Stora, Europe's largest paper and pulp company, made clear while visiting fund managers in London recently that his company still means business, despite its incredible age. After making DM1.45 billion from the sale of the stainless steel to dynamite divisions of Feldmühle Nobel, the German conglomerate, last year, Stora is planning more acquisitions on the continent. If history is anything to go by, German companies had best be on their guard. Stora grew into one of the world's biggest forest products companies after buying vast tracts of woodland to supply its Falun copper mine in central Sweden. The mine is soon to close after operating for 1,000 years. The once profitable mine had its heyday in the

17th century, at the height of the Thirty Years War, which saw Swedish armies playing waste to the German countryside. Asked if Stora's plans for expansion can be likened to that epic war, Berggren says: "Yes, we financed it."

### Classic bikes sale

SAD memories will be evoked on April 26 when Sotheby's auctions 17 classic motorbikes, which belonged to John Foulston, the late multimillionaire. Foulston, one-time owner of Brands Hatch, was killed at the age of 40 in a racing accident at Silverstone in 1987. By a cruel twist of fate, Atlantic Computers, the computer leasing company he had turned into a stock market star in the early Eighties, was one of the most infamous failures of that decade. Bought by John Gunn the year after Foulston's death, Atlantic's collapse triggered the demise of Gunn's British & Commonwealth empire.

### Flag ship

HOVERSPED, Sea Containers' subsidiary, is taking precautions to weather any big display of Scottish nationalism at the polls on April 9. Unlike Hoversped's three SeaCat catamarans already in service on the English Channel, which have the Union flag emblazoned across their roofs, the SeaCat Scotland, which will arrive in the Solent from its Tasmanian builders this weekend, carries, in the same place, the St Andrew's flag. The vessel will operate a new service between Stranraer and Belfast from June 1.

JON ASHWORTH

## The code of banking practice

From Mr Neville Lee

Sir, On March 16 1992, Lloyds Bank unilaterally invoked the spirit of the new code of banking practice, and withdrew the longstanding facility of a business to apply for a personal bank reference in respect of a prospective private customer.

Member firms of the Association of Residential Letting Agents, with some 450 offices throughout the UK, depend on the prompt receipt of a financial reference in order to satisfy their client's landlords of the financial credibility of a prospective tenant.

Customers of Lloyds Bank who apply for rented accommodation are now disadvantaged. Not only must they refer to their own branch and personally complete an application form, but it will also

cost them £20 in addition to the cost of the time and effort spent in attending to this matter.

Further, the bank will not reply if they are "unable to speak for the figure", thus leaving the agent to guess whether a reply has been sent, lost in the post, or will not be answered.

Quite apart from the discourtesy with which the bank imposed these conditions with only eight working days notice, it is increasingly obvious that this valuable personal reference service has not been discontinued in the interest of their customers.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. LEE,  
Leaders Limited,  
28 New Road,  
Brighton,  
East Sussex.

## Technical myopia

From J. V. Harstein

Sir, Mark Radcliffe's well reasoned article on "the manufacturing challenge" (*Business News*, March 26) set out a number of the parameters that must be in place for Britain to maintain a position among the world's leading manufacturing countries. However, there are two glaring omissions.

Nowhere in the article can I see any reference to technology or to training. There is an oblique reference at the end to the need for a well trained workforce but this hides the enormity of the training task and the investment this requires. If the captains of industry do not recognise the need for the rapid adoption of modern manufacturing technology and the education and training that go with it, what hope is there for the rest of us?

In last year's report, the Cabinet Office Advisory

Council on Science and Technology stated: "A greater effort to improve public attitudes towards science and technology is in the interests of the whole country, since such attitudes can significantly affect the long-term health of the economy. But the prime initiative should come from the leaders of the scientific and industrial community, who should do more to demonstrate the excitement and importance of their vocations."

Unless and until the industrial and educational communities recognise and act upon the need actively to promote the study of technology from an early stage, we cannot hope to produce industrial personnel with the relevant skills to cope with "the manufacturing challenge".

Yours faithfully,  
J. V. HARSTEIN,  
18 Ponsdown Avenue,  
NW11.

## Health insurers behave like mad March hares

From W. David

Sir, While it is good for the image of private medicine to trumpet a return to overall profitability, the core business, health insurance, is threatened by the growing discrimination against direct subscribers.

An individual or a family is now paying an extra 60 per

cent and more for cover than the costs charged to a company for insuring an employee with the same profile.

Since a claim is a claim, is a claim, there are no administrative savings with a group — indeed, the reverse if protracted negotiations are costed. Effectively, individuals, now facing a further rise

on the 1991 increases of some 25 per cent, are subsidising the benefits of company employees.

The insurers are displaying the economics — and the political acumen — of mad March hares.

Yours faithfully,  
W. DAVID,  
29 Frognaal, NW3.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE 1991 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Turnover **£694m**

Profit before tax **£50.4m**

Earnings per share **16.9p**

Dividend per share **7.05p**

- Very pleasing result overall
- Continental European businesses generate more than 60% of total turnover
- Strong balance sheet
- Reasonably firm start to 1992
- Raising £73m from shareholders for continuing growth across Europe

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Telephone: 061 443 1133 Fax: 061 553 5411  
The 1991 Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Company Secretary







## Equities show small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings end April 3. Settlement day April 13. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1991/92		Price	%	Net	Yld	P/E
High	Low	¢/lb		div	%	
5	2	Target Rent	20	...	...	...
34	12	Tenfold	12	...	...	...
114	28	Tricon Europe	31	...	...	71
197	108	Woodside	108	- 2	...	13.54
19	1	N.L. Sunrise	2	...	...	...

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
145	76	ATI	148
21	11	API Selections	13
292	168	Art Wiggins	230
397	175	Abstract Mead	1
131	9	5-Auction	11
244	100	Academy	108

177	85	Aspen Creek	115	- 5	4.0	5.8	0	0
175	10	BSE Duskies	10	0	0	0	0	0
170	76	BSE Res	25	...	4.6	7.2	7.0	0
210	110	Bonadine	405	...	11.7	7.9	...	...
78	29	Bonadine	25	...	0	0	0	0
108	54	Bumel	91	+ 1	4.0	6.0	0	0
184	83	CIA Co	154	...	3.7	3.2	0	0
75	35	City of Leno	42	...	3.0	9.8	0	0
75	35	City of Hooper	5	- 1	0.0	0.0	1.8	0
108	54	Chickadee	2	...	0.0	0.0	0	0
108	54	Chickadee	2	...	0.0	0.0	0	0
191	121	Comet Angel	174	...	2.0	2.2	17.1	0

60	22	Crown Lark	25		
53	30	Dainty Plover	34	14	57 79
163	81	Dunlin Pk.	152	45	46 45
107	80	Dusky Jacksnipe	61	40	66 34
112	82	Eggs	105	- 2	
68	37	Fairy Tern	58	31	72 125
287	181	Ferruginous Ibis	216	- 1	125 77 99
33	21	Flicker	27	- 1	
61	29	Flare-NK	42		
103	65	Gambel's Quail	65	15	28.0
236	125	Golden Lyrebird	112	60	123 104
112	65	Green Grosbeak	212	8	52 97
51	29	Grass Wren	85	0.5	

134	29	11	Hummerpet	11				
44	44	1	JMD Group	2				
00	80	31	Lopez	4				
	285	160	Mex of Fernal	231	†	13.2	76	14.2
	80	30	NIMC Group	80		3.5	158	7.7
	85	67	OB	108	-2	9.8		
	98	72	Outshore & Lites	75		4.3	7.7	9.7
256	149	87	Osorno	144		4.3	4.5	8.7
9.3	278	175	St Ives Gp	251		5.0	2.7	17.7
	31	9	Sumich 10g	16		20		
	43	1	Serv Comm	3	+	20		1.8

6.0	50	24	Smith David	277	-	1.7	65.5	8.4
5.9	50	26	Adams George	277	-	1.7	65.5	8.4
5.7	575	244	Smith David	277	9.5	1.0	11.0	0.0
5.7	670	425	Smith David (Jr)	255	9.5	1.0	11.3	0.0
5.6	205	106	Usher Walter	160	-	4.2	21.4	0.0
5.5	83	43	VTF	50	3.4	9.1	4.7	0.0
5.4	231	31	VRP	68	-	1.2	1.9	0.0
5.0	285	96	Wace	108	-	3.2	10.2	5.5
4.9	113	13	Wassington G	173	-	7.9	3.4	0.0
4.8	420	294	Wassington G	141	+ 2	10.5	3.4	0.0
4.7	10	1	Waverley Cam	-1	-	-	-	0.0
4.6	61	3	Waverley Cam	34	-	-	11.6	0.0

8.4	36	Whimsy Motel	20	...	2.0	...	5.5
73	26	Wood (SW)	50	...	0.1	0.2	...
0.2							
2.6							
∞							
<b>PROPERTY</b>							
4+	2	Abaco Group	3+				
100	63	Allied Lon	63	...	3.5	7.5	35.0
100	35	Arundell	63	...			
100	58	...	58	...	2.0	4.6	∞
1450	172	...	2750	...			
		...					

48	19	BH-H Group	21	...	1.0	...
500	325	BH-H (P)	410	- 8	17.4	5.7 16.2
85	33	Bougie End	34	...	2.0	...
153	115	Bradford	137	- 1	3.7	3.6 12.4
88	23	Bruders	23	...	...	...
333	178	Br Land	178	- 8	5.7	4.3 16.2
212	150	Brigton	160	- 3	7.1	5.9 13.3
333	150	Brigton	150	...	...	...
353	155	Brigton & Co	155	...	10.0	8.5 15.8
138	106	Cap & Regis	125	...	0.9	1.0
325	180	Carrington Prop	180	- 5	2.4	1.8

هكذا من اجل



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## Good News for Litigators

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As a result, firms are having to offer candidates large increases in salary to entice them to move. A firm in the North East, for example, succeeded in recruiting a commercial litigator earning less than £40,000 by offering him over £60,000. A young litigator in the City earning £25,000 moved to a similar firm for a salary of £34,000. Taking ten recent cases of candidates moving for more money, the average increase was 40 percent.

For litigators unhappy with their firm, their salary, or their specialisation, now is the time to look for a new position. Compared with their colleagues in other disciplines, they can afford to be adventurous. They are not under the same constraints to sit tight, batten the hatches, and wait for better days. On the contrary, they can look on the present as a moment of exceptional opportunity.

Michael Chambers

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■ Please respond in confidence with a detailed c.v. to Suzanne Karoly, Ernst & Young Corporate Resources, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU, quoting reference SK394.

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Please contact Shona McDougall or Naveen Tuli on 071-831 3270 (071-483 1899 evenings/weekends) or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS. Fax: 071-831 4429.

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## Fair game, foul play

Has he, or hasn't he? Does she, or doesn't she? With general elections approaching in Britain and America, new questions are asked in legal circles on both sides of the Atlantic about a candidate's right to privacy and the public's right to know.

The public in both countries are now understandably obsessed with economic issues. We have been mired in a worldwide recession for more than two years. General Motors recently reported a record \$4.45 billion (\$2.6 billion) loss for 1991, together with the statement that it would close 21 factories employing more than 17,300 workers by the mid-1990s. Economic indicators are down. Consumer confidence has plummeted. Unemployment has soared.

President Bush reassures Americans that he cares deeply about the economy. And John Major is selling his formidable image as an experienced economic hand who can deal steadily with the European Community. Let us be carried away by the economic aspects, there is another explosive topic: the sex lives of the candidates. As Yeats mused, "How can I, that girl standing there, my attention fix/ on Roman or on Russian/ or on Spanish politics?"

Ever since Governor Bill Clinton appeared with his lawyer wife on national television in January to deny he had had a 12-year relationship with Gennifer Flowers, a nightclub singer, one wonders whether sex has not become the real issue in this campaign. Clinton maintained that Ms Flowers was no more than a "friendly acquaintance". But questions like "did he ever?", "is it really relevant?", and "was he lying?", tend to dominate the public dialogue.

The voyeurism seems endless, although apparently not in one case. Johnny Carson, the television chat-show host, quipped that Paul Tsongas, a four-term senator from Massachusetts without charisma, was the only candidate who "you can be sure never had a girlfriend". You would think that there

Should the public know everything about the private lives of candidates for public office, James D. Zirin asks

might be better things to talk about.

Indiscretions among our leaders are nothing new. Grover Cleveland fathered an illegitimate child. FDR and Kennedy were said to have had mistresses while in the White House. Eisenhower was supposed to have had an affair while in charge of the European Theatre of Operations. And there are the stories about Lloyd George. In England, prominent public officials such as Cecil Parkinson, Allan Green and Paddy Ashdown have succumbed to the sins of the flesh — although the inquiry and the scrutiny appear more restrained than in the United States, where the tabloid press and the respectable press often create a feeding frenzy in their search for salacious material.

The explanation may lie in the differing legal standards in the two countries. In England, libel laws are still a restraint on journalists, and the same standards apply to both private persons and public figures. In the US, the Supreme Court has ruled under the First Amendment, which guarantees a free press, that a public figure may not maintain an action for libel unless there is established by "clear and convincing evidence" that

the publication was actually known to be false or "with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not". Tough standard.

A public figure need not even be a public official. Such figures are those who "have thrust themselves to the forefront of particular public controversies in order to influence the resolution of the issues involved". The rule is intended

### The press creates a feeding frenzy in the search for salacious material

to prevent the threat of libel actions from imposing censorship on a free press.

A number of "public figures", ranging from William F. Buckley, the newspaper columnist, to Ariel Sharon, the Israeli general, have lost libel cases because of this rigorous test.

The constitutional guarantee of a free press has also been held to protect journalists from disclosing their sources in court proceedings. In many states, this constitutional guarantee has been reaffirmed in "shield laws" enacted by the

legislatures to protect journalists in their news-gathering activities. No comparable laws exist in England.

Nina Totenberg, a National Public Radio reporter, recently subpoenaed by a Senate inquiry into illegal leaks in the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill affair, refused to reveal her sources on First Amendment grounds. She stated that to answer questions about her sources would be to "threaten the rights of the press to inform the public about the workings of government".

Ms Totenberg said: "I will not be a party to this effort, even if it costs me my liberty. A matter of principle. But is the game worth the candle? Is the public entitled to have candidates for office make full disclosure of their private lives as they disclose their tax returns or their finances?"

Are sexual peccadilloes or ambiguities to be taken as disclosable events to titillate as well as educate the public about the candidate's qualifications? And is the press entitled to investigate whether the disclosure is truthful or complete, with a protection against libel suits if they write a false report and against source disclosure — even if they obtain or purchase information in breach of confidence or in violation of law?

Governor Clinton's wife, Hillary, in a televised appearance in January, pleaded for a "zone of privacy for everybody". After all, what kind of people will run for office in the face of such scrutiny?

Will the American electors get only the bland, the mendacious or the better than thou? Better the candidate of vision and courage who may have stumbled along the way than the unflinched Teflon candidate to whom no programme, no

policy and no commitment will ever stick. Of course, there is a difference between false information and false opinion. The Supreme Court has held that "under the First Amendment, there is no such thing as a false idea. However pernicious an opinion may seem, we depend on its correction, not on the conscience of judges and juries but on the competition of other ideas".

Thus, a statement of opinion such as "Bush does not care about the poor" is constitutionally protected, while a statement of fact, such as "Clinton is an adulterer" should be actionable if false. American courts, however, tend to protect press freedom to report and repeat even unfounded charges of a newsworthy nature.

While there seem to be more legal restraints on the press in England than in the US, so long as the public is at least as preoccupied with sex as with the economy, private lives of political figures will catch the national conscience.

The author is a litigator with Broad, Abbott & Morgan, the New York law firm.

## Listening to a case for the children

THE Children Act 1989 promised that the voice of the child would be heard above all others. Courts have to focus on the child as an individual and ascertain his or her wishes and give them due weight.

In public law this is relatively easy. Since the introduction of guardians *ad litem* who report on and make recommendations on the welfare of children in care proceedings and the solicitors who represent them, their voices are heard very clearly.

Not so, however, in private law, where justices, instead of being able to appoint a guardian, must rely on a court welfare report from the probation service. This may seem fair enough, yet we have been asked not to request them unless absolutely necessary, to prevent the probation service becoming snowed under with work.

Leaving aside any prejudicial aspect of delay, also enshrined in the Children Act, justices are finding that all private cases involving children old enough to understand the situation need a report. Take the case of a father who had access to his 11-year-old daughter under the previous legislation. His former wife is preventing her staying with the father at weekends. He applies for a "contact" order. Mother does not oppose some contact but says the child must not stay with him because she returns disturbed and upset by the visit. Obviously, a report is necessary, but is the probation service the most suitable vehicle through which to obtain it?

"People join the probation service because they wish to work with criminals and their families," says Janet Digby Baker, a guardian *ad litem*, who has also worked for the probation service and as a court welfare officer. "Some can and do specialise in welfare work, but the civil service ethos of probation means they are likely to be drafted into other fields of service."

The probation service is already grasping the problem and in inner London it now has four specialist teams. By organising separate offices and making them more child-friendly, the service hopes to be less off-putting than before. None the less, the amount of in-depth social work experience required in these cases seems more suited to the skills of a guardian.

Janet Digby Baker and other guardians are now being called on by parents to produce a report, which leaves them in an invidious situation. Being employed by one or other of the parties, rather than appointed by the court, is difficult. "I cannot compromise my integrity," she says. "I write to the solicitor of the person employing me and then to the other party's solicitor. I point out that the only recommendation I can give will

be that which is in the best interests of the children." In fact, she is advising and recommending — not as a guardian, but as an expert witness.

This is one way in which solicitors are dealing with the problem of no guardians in private law matters. The family law committee of the Law Society, which would like guardians to have been appointed, is considering whether to try to formalise such a system of expert witnesses.

Jane Hearn, the committee secretary, says: "In some cases, solicitors have been able to get another solicitor to represent the child in divorce and matrimonial proceedings. These solicitors have, in their turn, been able to instruct a guardian as an expert witness. Is this the best way? Do we have a chance of getting it?" These seem almost rhetorical questions, given the inevitable problem of resources and the fact that the cooperation of legal aid offices will be essential. But, if a child is of sufficient age and understanding to be joined as a party to the proceedings, it seems that guardians will come into these cases. In these circumstances, why not let the court appoint them in the first place?

I cannot leave the subject of the voice of the child without also looking at the voice of the woman who seeks a remedy against domestic violence under the new legislation. If married and living together, the wife can get a family protection order at the magistrates court. Should the husband break the terms of the order, he can be arrested. If unmarried and living together there is a similar remedy to be found in the county court. Unfortunately, if a couple is separated, the only answer to threats or physical violence is to apply for a "prohibited steps" order stopping contact. This is because the definition of a prohibited steps order is such that it can only prevent an act a parent can do in meeting parental responsibilities. And violence can hardly be said to be a function of parental responsibility. Contact with a child is part of parental responsibility, so the court can stop contact; but magistrates' courts have no injunction powers to "back up" a prohibited steps order.

Occasionally, in London, the Legal Aid Board has granted legal aid certificates for prohibited steps orders on condition that application be made to the magistrates. Such an administrative decision seems to make little sense in such circumstances, and less so when the application for the order is to prevent a threatened child snatch. Such cases obviously need the greater powers of the county court.

The author is a chairman of a family proceedings court in inner London.

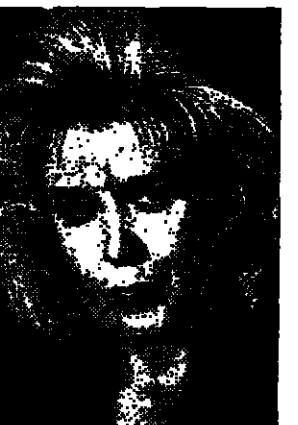


BRIEF

PAULA DAVIES



Clinton: denied relationship with Flowers, right



### All for charity

THE Charities Act 1992 sneaked onto the statute book just before the election put an end to parliamentary business. But moves in the European Parliament may soon result in another upheaval for regulation of the voluntary sector.

The proposal for a European associations (voluntary organisations) statute is just starting a legislative process in Europe and will aim to enable charities to take advantage of the single market. Without a Europe-wide framework, it is feared, organisations will set up headquarters in countries where fiscal and regulatory authorities are less strict.

**Fraud experts**  
DENTON Hall has set up a specialist group to handle mortgage work, thought to be a first among larger law firms. The City firm already has experience of fraud investigations, having been involved in the Guinness, Homes Assured, Barlow Clowes and BCCI cases.

**Dirty work**  
FARMERS, who as a tribe habitually spread even more mud than political parties combined, should beware. While the electorate will pronounce judgment on politicians, farmers will be subject to

### IN AND OUT

the new Control of Pollution Regulations drawn up by the EC. These are designed in part to prevent pollution of rivers by any leakage of agricultural products.

Farmers and tenants who breach the rules face unlimited fines in the crown court, according to Denison TIL, a Yorkshire law firm. The individual farmer proven to have custody and control of the cause of the pollution is the one who will pay, irrespective of knowledge or fault.

**Rough justice**  
A CHARTER for homeless people will be launched at St James's church, Piccadilly, on Friday. A campaign to include



Homeless and out on the street: but why voteless?

homeless people in a charter of citizens' rights began earlier this month, because individuals without an address are usually denied access to the electoral roll, many homeless people cannot vote.

**That's practical**  
NOTTINGHAM Polytechnic's Law School has become the first institution to win Law Society approval to offer the new skills-based vocational course replacing the finals throughout the country. The Legal Practice Course comes in at Nottingham in September 1993 — with a maximum of 500 students.

Professor Nigel Savage, the head of the law school, said the Law Society's decision to bring in the new skills-based course would have a "radical impact" on the quality of legal education.

The course devised at Nottingham had a "real relevance" to all types of practice: subjects range from commercial law and corporate finance to family law, child care, housing law and environmental litigation.

**Cut price**  
LAW firms are finding it increasingly hard to pay the fees of the compulsory Law Society continuing education courses.

As a result, they are spending less money from training budgets on the more specialised courses for young solicitors in their early years.

Cadmus, one of the main providers of such courses, has therefore substantially cut the cost of its compulsory Law Society courses. The "best practice" programme, for instance, is cut from £230, plus VAT, to £150, plus VAT, to help firms continue to send young lawyers on the specialist courses.

**Cat rap**  
A WOMAN in Atlanta is suing her neighbourhood property manager for \$10,200 (£5,800), saying that he was a hired man hired to sniff out her cat, the *National Law Journal* reports.

The plaintiff, Sue Brown, says that the defendant, Clarence White, lured her cat with food, then "deprived the feline of its life without regard to the feelings of the feline and the emotional stress" it would cause its owner.

White admits that he removed two cats from the area, having first warned Ms Brown that strays would be trapped and removed. But he has no idea whether one of them was Ms Brown's cat, Blackjack.

Ms Brown has valued her pet's life at \$200. The \$10,000 relates to punitive damages for emotional distress.

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Poles in front of the former headquarters of the disbanded Communist Party that denied them rights, which they are now regaining with a legal framework. Democratic Poland has been setting up a fair legal structure. George Dobry, QC, looks at progress

## A justice system for the Poles

Progress in Poland cannot be achieved without an appropriate legal framework. Wiesław Chrzanowski, the recently appointed speaker of the Polish Sejm and former minister of justice, understands this well.

Like many leading Polish lawyers, he knows justice from the inside; he spent six years as a political prisoner between 1948 and 1954. He knows the importance of amending the Polish company law and the civil code to bring it into the modern international trading world. That is now being done. He also believes there is more to law and order and protection of individual rights than the drafting of commercial contracts. The recreation of a strong, independent judiciary is at the heart of the matter.

Before 1990, more than 60 per cent of Poland's professional judges were Communist Party members. It is not practicable nor desirable to dismiss them all; ex-Communist judges must be better than no judges. On a recent visit, I did not have the impression that Mr Chrzanowski, or Professor Adam Strzembosz, the distinguished First President of the Supreme Court, were much worried about the standards of the Supreme Court, especially since a third tier of appeal is proposed. Yet it is doubtful whether the Polish High Court can yet deal with heavy commercial litigation; so far, there is no prospect of creating a commercial court. Some ministers and leading

advocates favour creating an Anglo-Polish arbitration court in Warsaw. There is the alternative of Warsaw arbitrations linked to the arbitration courts in London, and enforced, if need be, in England.

In criminal law, there is no lack of expertise. Courts of trial include local courts, which deal with criminal and civil matters and act as family and industrial courts. Judges sit alone or with assessors, and there are regional courts for important criminal and civil cases.

The judges' salaries seem minuscule by British standards. Yet Poland's justice ministry is troubled neither by their level, nor by the youth (some are in their twenties) or lack of experience of some recent appointees. Mr Chrzanowski points out that salaries are higher than those of ministers, and the younger generation are in many ways more reliable than some of those who served under the communist regime.

Polish judges now have life tenure. Promotion or appointment to a judge of a higher court requires a majority vote of the general assembly of the regional court, and

approval of the National Council of the Judiciary, which proposes two candidates for one vacancy. The appointment is made by the president of the republic. Critics allege that giving judges life tenure has led to a slowing of litigation.

The Chrzanowski reforms included the handing over of control for pre-trial detention to the courts and the re-privatisation of notarial services, the continental equivalent of conveyancing.

Partnership law, modelled in some respects on German law, is also being reformed. Much importance is attached to this. Legislative reform is somewhat hampered by lack of parliamentary draughtsmen. One area that has been neglected is property and environmental law, with which legal help from Britain would be of immense benefit.

After the recent elections, Mr Chrzanowski became the Speaker of the Sejm. His task will be particularly difficult because the provisional parliament elected in 1989 had many experienced lawyers who helped to draft legislation. But there are doubts about whether the

present Sejm has as many lawyers.

In the wake of the elections, lawyers are well-represented in the cabinet. Professor Andrzej Stelmachowski, the leading property lawyer, is now education minister. He is also highly respected by those British lawyers who have links with Poland. The new justice minister is Zbigniew Dyka, until recently vice-chairman of the National Bar Council and a Solidarity defence counsel, whose concern is to fight the corruption that privatisation has brought in its wake.

The legal profession maintained its high tradition during the communist years to a remarkable degree. But there was no civil litigation, other than family and probate. Lawyers, working in centres, were not permitted to charge fees above a fixed scale.

The 6,000 advocates have a National Bar Council and local bar councils, and have quickly adapted themselves to new conditions, but few yet have the expertise to deal with international commercial work. Those trained in Britain by the Know How Fund are already contributing. Then there are about

20,000 "legal advisers". Under the communist regime, state enterprises employed lawyers with university degrees, but without the long training qualified advocates require. These advisers practised before tribunals that adjudicated on disputes between state enterprises. They are now claiming, and likely to obtain, some rights of audience in the courts.

In the establishment in Poland of Western law firms, the Americans and the French have played a greater part than the British, perhaps because they were less restrained by recession. The recent move of Clifford Chance to Warsaw will go some way to remedying this and will be widely welcomed.

Of the several bilateral legal societies that have sprung up with Eastern Europe, the first and most active was the Polish Legal Association, founded within weeks of the Poles regaining independence. British-Polish activities include the Warsaw commercial law seminar in January 1990, the privatisation of property round-tables in Oxford in 1990 and in Warsaw in 1991, and an informal judicial visit.

The Law Society and the British Institute in Warsaw a complete law library; and the project of creating a British Law Centre at Warsaw University, with backing from judges and academics, will probably be set up this year.

His Honour George Dobry, CBE, QC, is president of the British-Polish Legal Association.

## Clean sweep for grime fighters

Rubbish in British streets should soon be a dim memory because of new legislation that takes effect from tomorrow

H eaps of uncontrolled rubbish and waste in the streets from shops or other commercial or industrial premises should soon be a thing of the past. From tomorrow, anybody who produces, treats, disposes of or transports waste will be under a duty of care to dispose of it and store it safely and securely.

The duty, contained in section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which comes into force tomorrow, is imposed on almost anybody who handles what is called "controlled waste". There are exemptions for householders dealing with domestic waste and for council-collected waste.

Producers of waste from shops, offices, factories, industrial and building sites will be obliged by law to look after their waste and prevent its illegal disposal or face an unlimited fine.

What amounts to waste? English legislation defines it in wide terms and includes scrap, by-products and rejected products. The key phrase, "controlled waste", means virtually all waste, apart from that from mines and quarries, from agricultural premises, explosives and most radioactive waste (under separate control).

The duty has been drafted to be self-policing: no regulatory authority has been told to enforce the duty. It aims to prevent other people committing controlled waste offences, to prevent controlled waste escaping, and to ensure the transfer of controlled waste with a transfer note and an adequate written description, to a registered carrier, authorised disposer or an exempt person such as the local council.

The person transferring waste must ensure that the carrier or disposer is registered. The only effective way of doing so is by actually seeing the registration document. Often, the problem is more likely to be with a carrier, given for example that "fly-tipping" is a problem.

There is thus a very good chance that somebody could be transferring "controlled waste", therefore coming under the duty of care under the Act, when in fact they do not realise that what they are dealing with is "waste". The documents at the centre of

the duty of care are the transfer note and the waste description. These have to be completed and handed over at the time of transfer of the waste between producer and carrier, and carrier and disposer. The note has to identify the waste, the quantity and whether it is loose or in a container, the type of container, the time and place of transfer, the name and address of the transferer and the receiver, and whether any exemptions apply.

The transferer and the receiver have to keep copies of the transfer note (and the waste description if it is a separate document) for two years after the date of transfer.

The helpful environment department code of practice, available from HMSO, describes how to comply with the duty. Of particular interest is that all waste holders must keep the waste safe against escape or spillage due to any cause, including bad weather, vandals, thieves, animals and trespassers. This will cause obvious problems with waste left for collection outside premises and material being blown off rubbish skips.

A difficult area could be that of contracts because the code recommends that when a producer believes there to be a problem, he should cease to use that carrier or disposer. This could leave the producer open to an action for a breach of contract, unless he protected himself at the outset by ensuring that compliance with the duty of care was a fundamental condition of the contract.

Unfortunately, most industrial concerns operate on the standard terms and conditions of their carrier or disposer, and most people will have little idea what the provisions of those terms and conditions are. This will have to change.

A free leaflet (ref. 91 EP 0298) is available from the DoE, PO Box 135, Bradford BD9 4HN.

TREVOR ADAMS

The author, a solicitor with Ashurst Morris Crisp, is editor of the bulletin of the UK Environmental Law Association.

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# Refusal to alter transsexual's birth certificate a breach

**B v France**

(Case No 57/1990/248/319)  
Before J. Cremona, President and Judges: Thor Vilhjalmsson, D. Bindschelder-Robert, F. Golcuklu, F. Matscher, J. Pinheiro Farinha, L.-E. Pettit, B. Walsh, R. Macdonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, A. Spielmann, N. Valticos, S. K. Martens, E. Palm, R. Pekkanen, A. N. Loizou, J. M. Morenilla, F. Bigl, Sir John Freeland and A. Baka  
Registrar M.-A. Elsen  
Judgment March 25

A transsexual, identified as B, was a victim of French court decisions which were contrary to her right to respect for her private life as enshrined in article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The European Court of Human Rights held by 15 votes to 6:

B found herself daily in a situation which, taken as a whole, was not compatible with the respect due to her private life. Consequently, even having regard to the state's margin of appreciation, the fair balance which had to be struck between the general interest and the interests of the individual had not been attained.

Article 8 of the Convention provides: "1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence."

"2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or

the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

The applicant was born in Algeria in 1935 and registered at birth as a male sex, with the forenames Norbert Antoine. From a very early age she behaved like a female, because she identified herself as such and was regarded as a girl by her family. After completing military service, she went in 1963 to Paris, where she now lived, and worked in the entertainment industry.

She was treated for depression from 1963 to 1967 and then had hormone therapy which brought about the feminisation of her appearance. She underwent sex change surgery in Morocco in 1972 and since then had been living with a man whom she would like to marry.

In 1978 she brought proceedings for a declaration that she was of female sex and for rectification of her birth certificate, so as to record her change of sex and her new female forenames Lyne Antoinette. The Tribunal de Grande Instance refused her application in November 1979 and her appeals were dismissed by the Bordeaux Court of Appeal in May 1985 and the Court of Cassation in March 1987.

Her official documents, including her passport, identity card and driving licence, were in the name of Norbert B and her social security card had a code number used for persons of male sex. After attempting unsuccessfully

to secure a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up a report on September 6, 1990, in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 8 of the Convention (17 votes to 1) but not of article 3 (15 votes to 1).

The case was referred to the Court by the Commission on November 12, 1990.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

**1 Jurisdiction to examine the Government's preliminary objections and the merits of those objections**

**A Jurisdiction**  
The Court saw no reason, as matters stood, to abandon a line of case law which had been followed constantly for over 20 years. It therefore considered, by 16 votes to 5, that it had jurisdiction to examine the Government's preliminary objections, even though the European Commission of Human Rights had requested the Court not to do so.

The Commission had argued that the Court's case law on that point had two important consequences: it rendered more burdensome the proceedings of the Convention institutions and created a further lack of equality between governments and applicants as the latter were not able to appeal against findings of inadmissibility by the Commission.

**B Preliminary objections**  
1 Failure to exhaust domestic remedies (article 34)

The applicant had complained in substance of a violation of her

right to respect for her private life before the Tribunal de Grande Instance and the Bordeaux Court of Appeal.

The Court of Cassation had not declared her ground of appeal inadmissible because of novelty but had rejected it as being ill-founded. The Court therefore dismissed the objection of failure to exhaust domestic remedies.

**2 Whether the application was out of time**

The applicant had submitted to the Court of Cassation a point of law relating to article 8. Furthermore, there had been no consistent case law at the time to show in advance that her appeal was pointless.

An appeal to the Court of Cassation was after all in principle one of the remedies which should be exhausted in order to comply with article 34 of the Convention and had at the very least had the effect of postponing the starting point of the six-month period.

The Court therefore also dismissed the objection that the application was out of time.

**II The merits**  
**A Alleged violation of article 8**  
According to the applicant, the refusal to recognise her true sexual identity infringed her right to respect for her private life, as guaranteed by article 8.

The Court noted first of all that the notion of respect enshrined in article 8 was not clear-cut. That was the case especially where the positive obligations implicit in that concept were concerned, as in the instant case (see *Rees v UK* (The Times October 26,

1986; Series A No 106, p14, paragraph 35) and *Cossey v UK* (The Times October 17, 1990; Series A No 184, p15, paragraph 36) and its requirements would vary considerably from case to case according to the practices followed and the situations obtaining in the contracting states.

In determining whether or not such an obligation existed, regard had to be had to the fair balance that had to be struck between the general interest and the interests of the individual (see in particular *Cossey* at p15, paragraph 37).

**1 Scientific, legal and societal developments relating to transsexuals**

The Court considered that it was undeniable that with respect to transsexuals attitudes had changed, science had progressed and increasing importance was attached to the problem.

It noted, however, in the light of the studies carried out and work done by experts, that there still remained some uncertainty as to the essential nature of transsexualism and that the legitimacy of surgical intervention in such cases was sometimes questioned.

The legal situations resulting therefrom were moreover extremely complex and there was as yet no sufficiently broad consensus between the member states of the Council of Europe to persuade the Court to reach opposite conclusions to those in *Rees* and *Cossey*.

**2 Differences between French and English systems**  
The Court found that there were noticeable differences be-

tween France and England with reference to their law and practice on civil status, change of forenames and use of identity documents, and so on.

**(a) Civil status documents**  
**(i) Rectification of civil status documents**

Nothing would have prevented the insertion, once judgment had been given, in Miss B's birth certificate of an annotation whose purpose was to reflect her present position.

Numerous French courts of first instance and courts of appeal had already ordered similar insertions to be made in the cases of other transsexuals. The Court of Cassation had adopted a contrary position in its case law but that could change.

It was true that the applicant had undergone the surgical operation abroad, without the benefit of all the medical and psychological safeguards now required in France.

The operation had nevertheless involved the irreversible abandonment of the external marks of her original sex. The Court considered that in the circumstances of the case the applicant's manifest determination was a factor which was sufficiently significant to be taken into account together with other factors, with reference to article 8.

**(ii) Change of forenames**  
The judgments supplied to the Court by the Government did indeed show that non-recognition of a change of sex did not necessarily prevent the person in question from obtaining a new

forename which would better reflect his or her physical appearance.

However, that case law had not been settled at the time when the Tribunal de Grande Instance and the Court of Cassation had given their rulings. It did not appear to be settled even now, as the Court of Cassation had apparently never had an occasion to confirm it.

The refusal to allow the applicant the change of forename requested by her was therefore also a relevant factor from the point of view of article 8.

**(b) Documents**

The Court found that the inconveniences which the applicant suffered as a result of the discrepancy between her legal sex as mentioned in various official documents and her apparent sex reached a sufficient degree of seriousness to be taken into account for the purposes of article 8.

**(c) Conclusion**

The Court thus reached the conclusion, on the basis of the above-mentioned factors which distinguished this case from the *Rees* and *Cossey* cases, and without it being necessary to consider the applicant's other arguments, that she found herself daily in a situation which, taken as a whole, was not compatible with the respect due to her private life.

Consequently, even having regard to the state's margin of appreciation, the fair balance which had to be struck between the general interest and the interests of the individual had not been attained, and there was thus a violation of article 8 (judges

Matscher, Pinheiro Farinha, Pettit, Valticos, Loizou and Morenilla dissenting).

The respondent state had several means to choose from for remedying that state of affairs. It was not the Court's function to indicate which was the most appropriate.

**B Article 3**

Before the Commission, Miss B had also claimed that she had been treated by the law in a manner which was both inhuman and degrading within the meaning of article 3.

She had not repeated that complaint since and the Court therefore did not consider it necessary to examine the question of its own motion.

**III Application of article 50**

**A Damage**

The Court considered, by 15 votes to 6, that Miss B had suffered non-pecuniary damage as a result of the situation found in the judgment to be contrary to the Convention, and awarded her FF100,000.

On the other hand, it unanimously dismissed her claims relating to pecuniary damage. Her difficulty in finding work because of having to disclose her circumstances, although real, was not insurmountable.

**B Costs and expenses**

The Court considered, by 15 votes to 6, on the basis of the criteria laid down in its case law, that the respondent state should reimburse the applicant the entire amount claimed, namely FF35,000.

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Love leaves the field trailing in his wake

# Faldo rediscovers his authority in time for Augusta

FROM MITCHELL PLATT'S GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA

NICK Faldo left here without The Players Championship, with a \$205,200 less than the winner, Davis Love III, but with the belief that he is playing better than ever.

In truth, he was disappointed with a final round of 74, which left him sharing second place with Tom Watson, Ian Baker-Finch and Phil Blackmar. He is also courteous enough to accept that he is fortunate to be No. 1 in the Sony world rankings again after only one win in the last 16 months.

Yet he is adamant that he is once more hitting the ball with penetrating authority. In other words, he is primed to build on his collection of major championships, starting with the Masters at Augusta next week.

"It wasn't my day on Sunday," Faldo said. "I was trying to make things happen and they didn't. But I was generally pleased with the

## SONY RANKINGS

1. N. Faldo (GB), 16,70pts; 2. F. Couples (US), 16,20; 3. J.M. Olazábal (Spain), 16,04; 4. I. Woosnam (GB), 15,59; 5. S. Ballesteros (Sp), 14,99; 6. B. Langer (Ger), 13,52; 7. P. Stewart (11,84); 8. G. Norman (Aus), 11,49; 9. P. Azinger (US), 9,78; 10. M. McNulty (Zim), 9,61. Other British placing: 17. R. Rafferty, 7,58.

week. I played well, I was mentally strong and my visualisation is great.

"My idea is always to advance, which is why I'm continually examining the swing with my coach, David Leadbetter. I now feel I'm hitting the ball better than ever. I'm in a good frame of mind; I'm moving forward."

"I'm also beginning to loosen up. You play your best when the adrenalin is going but when you stay relaxed at the same time. I've made a great deal of progress in that area."

Faldo has hinted about a new thought process designed to strengthen his mental outlook. He has been

reading specific books and listening to tapes.

It is nothing new for a sportsman to turn to the power of positive thinking. Severiano Ballesteros used to listen to tapes offering encouragement before he went to bed.

Faldo has always given the impression of being exceedingly resilient but he is essentially a shy person who needs to guard against losing his self-control. He says he would like to be spontaneous on the course but that would be out of character and a threat to his career.

The Faldo who has won two Open Championships and two Masters will win more by grinning at every two-iron that finishes more than 20 feet from the hole and at every putt that fails to drop from inside that distance.

Where Faldo is relaxing more is by reducing his workload on the practice range. "I've got set drills and, if it means working for 20 minutes, that is all I do," he said. "There's no point hitting balls for an hour after that because, if the drill is correct, that is all my body needs to learn."

"Now is the time to really assess my game. It is more of a mental refinement. I think I've done enough of belting golf balls. I'm doing less work to be more productive."

Faldo mislaid his putting touch on Sunday, when Love, aged 27, gained his fourth and most important United States Tour win. A final round of 67 gave him a 15-under-par total of 273, which equaled the tournament record.

Love, a former Walker Cup player, has advanced from seventeenth to twelfth place in the world rankings but Faldo is in first place again ahead of Fred Couples, Jose Maria Olazábal, Ian Woosnam and Ballesteros.

If Faldo was encouraged by his play, with the Masters in mind, so was Watson. His win in the Hong Kong Open earlier this month was his first in five years and it has clearly heightened his confidence.

"I played a very good last round," he said. "The putter could have been a bit better but I'm getting more confident. I'm certainly looking forward to Augusta."

## McEvoy becomes captain

BY CHRIS MOORE

PETER McEvoy, Britain's record-capped amateur golfer, has opted to continue his international career the new captain of England.

The twice-British Amateur champion, from Warwickshire, has spent the winter contemplating retirement after being nominated last November to succeed Mike Kelly as England captain. "The English Golf Union gave me the option of being playing or non-playing captain," McEvoy said.

"Over the past few years the main reason I've been unable to play as much has been because of the pressure of work. But once I'd accepted

the England captaincy it meant that I was going to have to attend the events away. And rather than settle for being a shooting-stick captain, I've decided to, at least, have a crack at making the team."

With that aim in mind, McEvoy has been having lessons for the first time in his career, from Noel Boland, the professional at Cotswold Hills. "It's been an interesting experience," he said. "There was a time when I could turn up and win my matches for England without putting in the same amount of effort other players did. But those days are long gone."

Judging by his first outing of the season for Warwickshire against Leicestershire on his 39th birthday on Sunday when he won his four-omes and his singles, the old magic is still there. "My short game was a bit indifferent but I didn't miss a fairway with my driver," he said.

McEvoy's first duty as England captain will be to accompany the squad for a week's training in Spain from April 8. He must pick his first team for the international against France in May, and is also captain of the England youth team for the European Championships in Finland in July.

## Pursuit of the cyclist's dream

BY PETER BRYAN

IT WAS not much of a celebration, but then Chris Boardman, who yesterday received The Times/Mintel Supreme Award, has little opportunity to celebrate anything.

Morning training was postponed — there was heavy rain at his home in The Wirral — until the afternoon so that Boardman sat in a barber's chair instead of the saddle and had a haircut.

While the scissors snipped to almost crew-cut length, he thought of Barcelona and how the award will help in achieving his aim to win an Olympic gold medal in the 4,000-metre individual pursuit in July.

Boardman's life has revolved for the past four years around cycling and the daily dedication it demands to reach international standards. That is how he spends every day of the year. "It's a treadmill," he says, "but when something like

## THE TIMES/MINTEL SUPREME AWARD



this [the award] happens there is a temporary respite from the pain." Every penny, he says, of the £5,000 will go towards his Olympic preparations, be it special food, travel or keeping abreast of the latest advances in equipment.

He regards himself as heavily in debt to his family: his wife, Sally-Ann, his son, Edward, and his daughter, Harriet, whose own lives are governed by his sporting demands.

The joy of winning an important race is based principally on the knowledge that the modest prize-money will be a bonus for the tight family housekeeping budget. He long ago gave up his craft of cabinet-making and is now one of Britain's "unwaged".

The British Cycling Federation will not be announcing its team for Barcelona for another month or two. But Boardman must be regarded as a certainty for the pursuit, which serves to inspire him rather than to make him relax.



Boardman, armed against the cold, in hot pursuit of Olympic gold

He gets very little preferential treatment among the Olympic squad. His racing commitments at home and overseas from now until the Games have already been decided. His routine training is left very much to him, although every time he rides, the print-out from his heart-rate monitor is analysed by his trainer, Peter Keen, a senior lecturer at the West Sussex Institute.

Boardman was fifth last year's world pursuit championship in Stuttgart with a personal best time of 4min 31.4sec. An improvement of

five seconds. But in Barcelona he reckons that he will have to aim for a time under 4min 25sec if he is to strike gold.

So far in his career, he has been untroubled by nerves. The Olympics may be different, he is prepared to admit. "The stakes are so high that it is a possibility," he says, "and I must be ready for it."

In the pursuit, every rider has a qualifying test over the full distance against the clock rather than with an opponent. Only the fastest eight go through to the next

round in the hope of qualifying for the four semi-final places.

Boardman hates the tie that follows the qualifying round. "I don't know why, but I am generally at my worst then," he says. "Possibly because you are too exhausted from the effort and tension to go forward in the competition."

This year's season started well for him, with record-breaking rides but, in the past month, he has been dogged with illnesses and is on a course of antibiotics for a chest infection. But better now than in July.

## SPORTS POLITICS

# Women lack a sporting chance

BY JOHN GOODBODY

WOMEN may seem to have played an outstanding role in British sport. Competitors like Virginia Leng and Jayne Torvill, Tessa Sanderson and Sharron Davies have all earned our admiration and applause. However, a consultation document demonstrates how far Britain has to go to secure equal opportunities for females, many of whom are being held back by our own blinkered attitudes.

Not only is Britain being deprived of Olympic medals by our prejudices, but women are also unable to fulfil their potential. As the paper, published by the Sports Council, stressed: "Sport needs women just as much as women may benefit from sport."

Women make their own special physical contribution, ranging from the grace of gymnast Olga Korbut to the determination of Alison Streeter, who has swum the Channel three ways non-stop,

which no man has achieved. But it is not only women's physical contribution that is important.

Dr Anita White, who chaired the council's group, pointed out that women also "bring a new thinking to sport and how it should progress".

Although the report, which is being distributed for comment to national governing

bodies of sport, political parties and local authorities, recorded that women's participation has increased in recent years, the number of women in coaching has declined. The report stated: "As women and girls have increasingly committed themselves to strive for sporting success, or to learn new sports, so men rather than women have stepped in to fill the coaching positions."

In tennis and badminton, in which participation is split approximately 50-50 between the sexes, men have increased their dominance of senior coaching. In 1976, 32 per cent of professional tennis coaches in Britain were female. By 1988, this had fallen to 25 per cent. In 1976, five per cent of the national badminton coaches were female. In 1990, this had fallen to none.

This trend is curious considering that the person who has probably made the greatest contribution to coaching in Britain over the last decade

is a woman: Sue Campbell, the director of the National Coaching Foundation. While said: "There are one or two exceptions who reach the top, but there do seem to be fewer women in coaching. After they have had competitive careers, many women feel guilty if they want more time away from their families for coaching." Provision must be made to help women in their coaching careers.

The media are rightly criticised for not having enough female sports journalists, and even the composition of the Sports Council comes under attack. Only one woman, Mary Peters, is a member and recently two women, Dr Elizabeth Murdoch and Professor Margaret Talbot, leading figures in the government's working party on the national curriculum, were recommended by the Sports Council to chair their regions. Sadly, Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, did not recognise their worth.



Peters: alone at top

## ICE SKATING

# Absence of Ito is felt at titles

BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

MIDORI Ito was sorely missed in the Coliseum at Oakland, California, on Sunday when the opposition to Kristi Yamaguchi crumbled.

The Olympic champion retained her world title on her home patch — she lives 20 miles away from Fremont — and, bar one flaw when bravely attempting her *bite noire*, the salchow, came close to perfection. The rest wilted, perhaps after an over-long season that had begun in the same arena last October with the Skate America contest. It is hard to imagine even a substandard Ito not beating the second-placed Nancy Kerrigan, who benefited from the others' errors.

A new face and new country on the podium came in the minute form of Lu Chen, aged 15, from North China, who, though isolated from the rest of the skating world, has, thanks to video films and dedication, won bronze medals at junior and now senior world championships in one season.

A nervous Charlene von Saher, the nominal British No. 2, outskated Joanne Conway in Sunday's free contest, the national champion dropping two places to fourteenth, compared to seventh last year. Von Saher was only 0.5 points behind and, with Britain thus now confined to only one woman at Prague next February, it will be fascinating to see who is chosen.

Another American-reared skater, Alice Sue Claes, who was born in Atlanta but who has discovered roots in Antwerp, finished seventh for Belgium in her senior debut. Like von Saher, she is aged 17 but, unlike the new British acquisition, she was not born in, nor does she speak the language of, the country which she now represents.

RESULTS: 1. K. Yamaguchi (US), 15.5; 2. M. Ito (Jpn), 15.4; 3. S. L. Chen (China), 12.6; 4. L. Chen (China), 12.5; 5. J. Conway (GB), 12.0; 6. N. Kerrigan (US), 11.8; 7. A. Claes (Bel), 12.0; 8. P. Salchow (US), 11.8; 9. R. Preston (Can), 12.6; 10. P. Hodge (GB), 11.5; 11. J. Conway, 22.9; 12. C. von Saher, 22.5.

## MOTOR RALLYING

# Sainz pulls clear of his rivals

Nairobi: Carlos Sainz, driving a Toyota Celica, extended his lead in the Safari Rally to 17 minutes after the 338km fourth leg through a dust storm in the Rift Valley yesterday. The Spaniard, who won the 1990 world championship, was in sight of his first win of the season after finishing the stage at Eldoret.

Five of the first seven cars were Toyotas and the two Lancia Delta drivers chasing Sainz flourished in a swirling storm of volcanic ash whipped up by the Spaniard. Jorge Recalde, of Argentina, was 17 minutes behind and the world champion, Juha Kankkunen, of Finland, was 42 minutes in arrears.

The South American, who went off course five or six times during the stage, said: "It was like driving in fog. I kept stopping to check my bearings."

Kankkunen said he lost five or six minutes because of the conditions: "I must have seen the track three or four times," he said. "The rest of the time I was driving blind." (AFP)

LEADING POSTIONS (after fourth stage): 1. C. Sainz (Spain), Toyota Celica, 2. J. Recalde (Arg), Lancia Delta, 3. J. Kankkunen (Fin), Lancia Delta, 4. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 5. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 6. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 7. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 8. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 9. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 10. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 11. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 12. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 13. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 14. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 15. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 16. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 17. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 18. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 19. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 20. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 21. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 22. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 23. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 24. J. M. Salazar (Col), Toyota Celica, 25. J. M. 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# Injury threatens to rule Pearce out of cup final

□ Luton Town is still open to offers, Roger Smith, the chairman, told a meeting of shareholders yesterday.

THIRD DIVISION: C. Turner (Clayton Orient), S. Hiley (Greeter City), S. Charlton (Hardsfield Town), T. Evans (Stratford), V. Overson (Stoke City), C. Meraden (Hardsfield), A. Kelly (Rotton Woodman), N. Gileghorn (Holdingworth), W. Higgins (Stoke), D. Hindleworth (Stratford), I. Roberts (Hardsfield).

FOURTH DIVISION: K. O'Hartion (Carlisle United), P. Fleming (Marsfield Town), P. Hardy (Wrochem), S. Davis (Barnley), A. Walker (Gillingham), S. Goodwin (Rotherham United), P. Groves (Blackpool), K. Lowe, G. Bull (both Barnley), D. Barber (Blackpool), P. Spent (Marsfield).

before England fly out to Moscow.

Manchester United's game at Anfield has been put back 24 hours from Saturday, April 25 to be televised, kicking off at 3.25pm. Leeds are in action against Sheffield United on the same day.

Taylor's last squad included ten players from Manchester United, Liverpool and Leeds. Another

**Robert Wainwright and David Cruickshank, of Haileybury, won the public schools colts doubles championship after a high-quality final against William Hale and Tim Liverton, the Cheltenham pair, at Queen's Club yesterday.**

today whether the 1992 world sportscar championship goes ahead.

Michael Laurie, the project co-ordinator, is also agent for the sale of the commercial sites. The professional team is completed by YRM, the architect, YRM Anthony Hunt Associates,

Clayton Lambert had ended a lean series with such a flourish the previous evening that West Indies, it seemed, could take charge of the match if he had been able to continue in the same vein. But Stephenson had Lambert peg before in his second over as he played half-forward.

Best remained completely unambitious as West Indies set about trying to rebuild their innings and he never looked comfortable when Salisbury replaced Malcolm. Best had added four runs in 15 minutes when he tried to lift Salisbury back over his head but sliced a high catch that Muntion did well to take running backwards at deep mid-off.

J B Johnston b Benjamin	21
P Stephenson c Gray b Benjamin	20
R Parnham b Walsh	16
Johnson b Benjamin	43
Hussein lbw b Benjamin	5
A Morris c Murray b Gray	73
A Rhodes c Murray b Gray	12
D K Salisbury not out	21
A Munton lbw b Walsh	2
P Dick c Best b Benjamin	7
E McIntosh not out	0
Extras (td 14, w 2, nb 50)	46
	342

**ALL OF WICKETS:** 1-51, 2-62, 3-135, 4-55, 5-230, 6-274, 7-308, 8-314, 9-342.

**OWNERS:** Gray 29-7-42; Gibson 18-1-75.

ateshead, last year's ven-  
cannot close its roads on a  
urday without inconve-  
ence and has no flat park  
h suitable pathways.  
rdeen has Duthie Park  
it is there that the races

Nova and the councils are underwriting the costs. The commitment of the two councils is "£70,000 and a lot of manpower," according to Jim Rust, the City of Aberdeen's head of leisure services. General Portfolio decided not to renew its backing.

St. Louis Pistons	42	30	.583	18½
St. Louis Hawks	35	37	.486	23½
St. Louis Packers	35	36	.479	24
St. Louis Bucks	30	41	.429	27½
St. Louis Hornets	28	42	.400	29½

ka (Hextable, Kent) bl L Hill (Shenley, Birmingham), pts. U54kg: W Tyrrell (Hornhill, Sunderland) ko R Warman (Essexchamps, Essex), 1st rnd. U57kg: K Peasey (Booth) bl S Sargent (Hollyfield,

Camposes, 5-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4; J  
wins by P Cane, 7-5, 4-6, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; F

Roll Red Wings	41	25	11	88
Chicago Blackhawks	36	27	14	88
Louis Blues	34	33	9	78
Minnesota North Stars	31	40	5	67
Toronto Maple Leafs	29	41	7	65

0.55sec, 2, C Foot (City of Sheffield),  
51: 3, S Buxton (Nova Centurion),  
72 100m butterfly: 1, Purvis, 1min  
33sec, 2, Kennedy (Nova Centurion),  
5.58; 3, Jepson, 1.05.48.

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## PFA and Premier League look for solution



Reid: would defy strike

By PETER BALL

AS THE strike ballot organised by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) entered its second week, there was some feverish activity in football yesterday as the PFA and the Premier League sought to avert the threatened action by first division players.

The ballot closes on Friday and will be counted over the weekend by the electoral reform society, with the result due at the beginning of next week. If, as seems certain, there is overwhelming support for a strike, action is likely to follow quickly.

It is expected that the first stage will be for the players to refuse to play in matches

televised live on television, with the Manchester United v Nottingham Forest Rumbelows Cup final on April 12 the likely starting point. Manchester United's players have already confirmed their willingness to strike if required to do so.

There have already been suggestions by the clubs that they would respond with legal action. The Football League is ambivalent towards the strike, if not actively supporting it, so it would be unlikely to initiate such action. The suggestion that United and Forest would use their youth teams with European qualification at stake seems fanciful.

The consequences were beginning to concentrate minds yesterday and, if

there were no talks *per se*, there were talks about talks.

Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, and Gordon Taylor, of the PFA, spent some time trying to clear the air after a weekend of accusation and counter-accusation. Parry, for his part, remained optimistic that a solution could be found, insisting that the parties are "only a spit apart".

Although there has been a lot of discussion of the players' demand for a full entitlement of ten per cent of television money, I understand that a formula giving them five per cent up to a minimum guaranteed figure and then ten per cent thereafter of the new television contract was nearly agreed

and that only the small print divides them.

The intervention at the weekend by Peter Swales, the chairman of Manchester City, who accused the players of just blindly following Taylor, who was solely responsible for the problem, did nothing to help the situation.

Swales also muddled the waters still further by referring to first division players' earnings, even though the point of the television money is to support welfare activities including the community programmes, youth training schemes, education and benevolent fund grants to older and former players hitting hard times, which benefit the PFA's 2,500-strong mem-

bership across all four divisions of the present Football League.

The television income for the PFA is a result of our first division members conceding their performers' rights for television appearances so that those monies can go to benefit everybody. Taylor pointed out in an emotional speech on Sunday night.

"People ask what we do with the money. I'll tell you what we do with the money: last year, we spent £500,000 on a building so we could properly administer a community programme, which involves 60 clubs and creates schemes for over 750,000 youngsters; we paid £250,000 in private medical fees; we paid

£250,000 in hardship fund payments to former players like the late Jimmy Mullie and Wilf Mannion; we paid over £250,000 from the accident fund to people like Ray Kennedy, who has certainly contributed to the tapestry of this game."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, was convinced and yesterday he added his voice to the cause — although he also said that he considered the television offer to be a "fair" one.

"I hope it does not come to conflict, but I think the PFA must be recognised as a body with an important part to play," Ferguson said. "This is 1992 and is not just about the PFA counting their money."

"They are a powerful, sophisticated and respected organisation who do good work. While the first division players might earn big money, this is about the lower divisions as well."

There was one chink in Manchester's total support for the possible strike. Peter Reid, the player-manager of Manchester City, admitted that he would cross the picket lines if it came to it.

"The club must come first, and I'm a manager first and player second," Reid said, but there was, however, little solace in his reasoning for Swales, his chairman. "If I was just a player, I would follow the advice of Gordon Taylor, who has done so much for the players in all four divisions."

League leadership may change hands

## Preoccupation of hosts may benefit United

By IAN ROSS

NORWICH City could be forgiven for regarding tonight's match against Manchester United, a match of immense significance, as little more than an irrelevant nuisance.

Although the competition for places in their team to face Sunderland in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough should be sufficient to guarantee that the hosts' ambition extends beyond the simple preservation of tired limbs, United could scarcely have picked a better time to seek a rare victory at Carrow Road and with it the chance to go top again after a month in second place.

Although United's League form has been largely undistinguished of late, Alex Ferguson is confident that a psychological advantage can be achieved by overhauling Leeds United as an intriguing battle for the championship nears its climax. "To be honest, it doesn't really matter who we are playing now because it is simply a case of making sure that we perform at our best in every game," the United manager said.

"We won 3-0 at Norwich

	P	A	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds Utd	36	18	13	3	85	31	89
Man Utd	34	18	13	3	85	24	87
Sheff Wed	31	11	12	3	54	48	69
Liverpool	34	14	7	3	38	31	55
Arsenal	34	14	12	8	59	38	54
Man City	35	15	9	11	42	54	54
Coventry	36	12	13	11	47	65	49
Nottingham Forest	32	13	8	11	49	42	47
QPR	36	10	17	9	41	38	47
Aston Villa	35	13	8	14	38	38	47
Everton	35	11	13	11	45	40	46
Chelsea	35	11	13	12	46	46	46
Oldham	35	12	8	15	58	44	44
Sheff Utd	35	11	11	13	44	54	43
Wimbledon	35	10	13	12	40	44	43
Cardiff	35	10	10	15	37	47	40
Tottenham	33	11	8	16	42	46	38
Southampton	33	9	10	14	32	46	37
Leiston	35	7	11	17	28	59	32
Norths	35	7	10	18	28	59	31
West Ham	33	6	11	16	28	48	29

last year which was my first ever success at Carrow Road. Hopefully that signals a change of luck for me; the start of a run of victories on that ground."

With so many players at his disposal, Ferguson may again decide to alter the make-up of his side despite his obvious satisfaction at securing a point against Queen's Park Rangers, at Loftus Road, on Saturday.

Although Webb is likely to win promotion from the substitutes' bench as a replacement for the injured Phelan, Sharpe is likely to be the main

beneficiary should Ferguson make unforced changes in personnel. Robson is expected to play despite aggravating a calf injury at the weekend and Pallister is also likely to take his place even though his recovery from a painful back injury is not yet complete.

Steve Bruce, the United defender, yesterday acknowledged that good fortune — or the lack of it — may ultimately decide whether the championship pennant comes to rest at either Old Trafford or Elland Road. "We are now in the final straight and we are hoping that we can get the bounce of the ball and the breaks which all teams chasing the title require," he said.

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds, yesterday flew in the face of popular opinion by insisting that his side was more than capable of winning the championship for the first time since 1974.

"We are in a position at the top which nobody expected us to be in and I do not see it being unduly threatened," he said. "Our results since Christmas are as good as anybody's and certainly better than Manchester United's."

Norwich's chances of achieving a morale-boosting victory have been somewhat reduced by the loss of Fleck, who is injured and Beckford, who is suspended.

Bruce Grobbelaar's fears that his erratic performance against Sheffield United on Saturday may have cost him his place in the Liverpool team, proved unfounded. He faces Notts County at Anfield tonight. Graeme Souness's decision to retain his goalkeeper is, perhaps, unexpected given the Liverpool manager's comment yesterday that his team "must stop giving away soft goals".

Nicol Barnes and Wright will all, however, be missing as Liverpool attempt to secure a place in next season's UEFA Cup at the expense of a County side also in desperate need of League points, if for altogether less attractive reasons.

REMAINING MATCHES: Manchester United: Norwich City (a), Manchester City (h), Southampton (h), Nottingham Forest (a), West Ham United (h), Liverpool (a), Tottenham Hotspur (h), Leeds United (a), Coventry City (h), Sheffield United (a), Norwich City (h).

Pearce operation, page 35



Watery brave: Elizabeth Chick, the Oxford cox, is hoping to inspire the Dark Blues to their sixteenth Boat Race win in 17 years

## Cambridge gain an edge in weight

By MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

STATISTICS revealed at the Boat Race weigh-in yesterday suggest that Oxford and Cambridge are as well matched as Major and Kinnoch, with Cambridge perhaps having the equivalent of a one-point electoral advantage in weight and age.

Cambridge tipped the scales at 13st 9½lb to Oxford's 13st 7½lb, the heaviest man in the line-up being Donald Fawcett, of Cambridge, at 15st 4½lb.

The 1992 crews in no way threaten any weight records either as crews or individuals. Both are well over a stone a man lighter than Oxford's record-breaking 1990 crew, which averaged 14st 12½lb, and no one approaches the 17st 5½lb bulk of Chris Heathcote, who rowed for Oxford in the same year.

Cambridge's average age, excluding their 38-year-old cox, Andrew Probert, is 22 years eight months — one month older per man than Oxford, although Oxford have the oldest oarsman in

Joe Michels, aged 27, their American president.

The two youngest competitors, Nicholas Clarry, aged 20, of Cambridge, and Peter Bridge, 19, of Oxford, are both blues and were crewmates in the Great Britain gold medal junior coxless four in 1990. Bridge also won a gold medal in the Britain under-23 eight last summer before going on to gain senior representation in a coxed pair in Vienna, when Probert was his steersman.

On the water, Cambridge spent their two outings

alone yesterday, completing a five- and three-minute row in the morning and speed work in the afternoon.

Oxford, after a long morning paddle, did two three-minute rows against Isis, their reserve crew, in the afternoon, winning by half-a-length and two-and-a-half lengths.

OXFORD: K K Poole (Magdalen College School and St John's), 13st 4½lb; J G Michels (St John's College), 13st 4½lb; S L Leake (Leake and University), 13st 2½lb; B Mavris (Magdalen College), 13st 2½lb; J H J Behrens (Radley, Reading Univ and Downing), 13st 12½lb; D R M Justice (Westminster School, Atlanta, Harvard and Downing), 13st 12½lb; D W Fawcett (Brooks School, Harvard and Magdalen), 15st 4½lb; D R Giffard (Bedford Modern and St Catherine's), 14st 17½lb; S L Foster (Eton and Robinson), 13st 4½lb; J G Stanger (Deutschhaus Gymnasium, Würzburg and Fitzwilliam), 13st 10½lb; stroke: A Probert (UCS, King's College, London, and Magdalen), 7st 11½lb, cox.

Worcester), 12st 6½lb; I W Gardner (Glasgow Academy and St Peter's), 13st 1½lb; stroke: N E Chick (Ratley HS and Chelmsford), 7st 11½lb, cox.

CAMBRIDGE: M G G Justice (Westminster School, Atlanta, Boston Univ and Sidney Sussex), 13st 6½lb; bow: W Clarry (Johns Hopkins GS and Jesus), 13st 1½lb; J H J Behrens (Radley, Reading Univ and Downing), 13st 12½lb; D R M Justice (Westminster School, Atlanta, Harvard and Downing), 13st 12½lb; D W Fawcett (Brooks School, Harvard and Magdalen), 15st 4½lb; D R Giffard (Bedford Modern and St Catherine's), 14st 17½lb; S L Foster (Eton and Robinson), 13st 4½lb; J G Stanger (Deutschhaus Gymnasium, Würzburg and Fitzwilliam), 13st 10½lb; stroke: A Probert (UCS, King's College, London, and Magdalen), 7st 11½lb, cox.

Average weight: 13st 9½lb.

Today's outings practising stake boat starts. Cambridge: 9.30am and 4.30pm. Oxford: 3pm.

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## Disabled athletes bitter

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN TIGNES

THE Winter Paralympic Games here in the French Alps are supposed to be the parallel Olympics for the disabled, but many of the athletes are angry that they are not being awarded the status of true Olympians.

Only those countries whose paralympic associations are under the umbrella of their national Olympic committees — countries like the United States — are allowed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to carry the Olympic logo of five interlocking rings on their tracksuits.

For countries like Britain, who have separate bodies running able-bodied and dis-

abled sport, they must not be seen to be competing under the Olympic banner.

For the British athletes, this is particularly galling. They arrived in Tignes kitted out for the first time with the same tracksuits as their able-bodied counterparts and were told they had to tape over the Olympic logo.

"Maybe they think the disabled are going to degrade the Olympics," Peter Young, one of the Nordic skiing team, said.

The copyright of the logo belongs to the IOC and can be used by the various national Olympic associations for marketing purposes to

raise funds for their Olympic squads. The national associations are loath to spread the appeal for money to their disabled associations.

In 1988 the Seoul Paralympics created a logo of their own, depicting five teardrops in the same colours and formation as the Olympic rings, but this, too, ran into trouble with the IOC when it was adopted by the paralympic movement worldwide. When national associations, led by the British Olympic Association, protested, the IOC said that the Paralympics could use the teardrop logo for identification purposes only.

## Policeman fined for mass arrest

By JOHN GOODBODY

A SWEDISH police officer responsible for the arrest of 101 England football supporters before the World Cup qualifier in 1989 was yesterday fined for malfeasance.

A district court in Stockholm found Olaf Gustavsson guilty of illegal arrest when he ordered the rounding up and expulsion of England followers, who had rampaged through the capital's shopping district. The size of the fine will be based on the income of the police officer.

The court said that the officer should have investigated each individual case to establish whether the youths were guilty of crimes. A group of

supporters had raced through the centre of the city, shouting abuse, slapping passers-by and ripping clothing off sales racks outside stores.

Police responsible for security at the European championship this June said that the conviction would not affect the planning for the event, in which England are among the eight qualifiers.

Steve Beauchamp, the international officer of the Football Supporters' Association, said: "It is encouraging that the Swedish court is insisting on individual examination of cases to establish guilt. This is completely different from what happened at the World Cup in Italy, particularly at

Rimini, when there was a mass deportation of many innocent supporters after an incident in a bar.

"This decision from Sweden is a good sign for the European championship. We deplore lawlessness from wherever quarter, but it is essential that each case is looked at individually, otherwise innocent people will suffer."

Before the World Cup qualifying game on September 6, 1989, the *Tor Brändan* ferry was obliged to return to Harwich on its crossing to Sweden because of fighting among rival English supporters, with one being lost overboard. The hooliganism before and after the match led

to Mrs Thatcher urging the Football Association to "consider very carefully" whether to withdraw from the 1990 World Cup.

However, the scale of the violence in Stockholm was disputed by the governments, police, supporters and media. The total arrests were 104 Swedes, 100 English, one Finn and one German.

The England followers were held overnight in prison, where they were able to watch the match on television, and then released. None of the English supporters was charged with any offences, which led to protests from Douglas Hurd, then home secretary, and Colin Moynihan, then minister for sport.

## Damiani hopes to meet Bruno

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANCESCO Damiani, of Italy, could be boxing in London in May. The former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, who earlier this month was reported to have turned down \$300,000 for a bout with Frank Bruno, has decided that he wants to meet Bruno after all, according to Frank Warren, the London promoter.

However, Bruno's promoter, Mickey Duff, has turned down the offer. Warren said yesterday that Damiani had appointed him his agent and told him he wanted to meet Bruno. He had therefore written a letter to Duff asking him to join him in the promotion. Warren said: "Now that I am Damiani's British agent, I'll fax Mickey Duff asking him if he is interested in a joint promotion with me."

Warren said that Damiani had signed a contract to box three contests under Don King, the American promoter, and doubted if Damiani would be free to come to London in the near future.

Duff said that Damiani had signed a contract to box three contests under Don King, the American promoter, and doubted if Damiani would be free to come to London in the near future.

Chris Pyatt will make his first appearance as a middleweight in Norwich tonight with a bout against Melvin Wynn, of the United States.

Pyatt, formerly a light-middleweight, said yesterday: "There is not a middleweight in Europe I feel can trouble me now, including the British champion, Herol Graham, and the European champion, Sumbu Kalambay, who are both past their best."

Damiani: decision

Warren said that he would be prepared to pay the purses offered to Bruno and Damiani by Duff when the match was first opposed. "If I can't get Bruno, I'll put Damiani on anyway in May," Warren said.

Having already arranged a bout for Bruno with José Ribalza, a Cuban-born New Yorker, on April 22 at Wembley Arena, Duff said he was not interested in Warren's offer. "I don't want to be involved in a promotion with Warren," Duff said. "I spoke to Damiani and his manager and they turned down Bruno. I don't want Damiani any more."

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Damiani: decision





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# LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY MARCH 31 1992



**MOTOR SPORT**  
Driving force:  
special report  
over three  
pages

## Tomorrow belongs to the Scots

Magnus Linklater, editor of *The Scotsman*, on the new controversy surrounding an old issue — Scottish independence from Westminster

The woman was hopping mad. Two bright red spots burnt on her cheeks. Her fist clenched, dangerously I thought. "What are you trying to do to us?" she demanded. "What is the point of it? It's so... so irresponsible."

The scene was an Edinburgh drawing-room, the time pre-election, the issue Scottish independence. My role in this particular contretemps was that of messenger, always a vulnerable one, particularly when the message is an unpopular one (at least with the woman in question).

My newspaper, *The Scotsman*, had staged a raucous debate on the constitutional question in Scotland, and had then run an opinion poll which had turned up an unexpected (and not thereafter repeated) finding: that 50 per cent of the Scottish people favoured independence. Not just a separate assembly or parliament, but all-out, Scottish Nationalist-style independence.

The woman did not like it, found it thoroughly alarming, and blamed me for inflaming the populace. In her eyes, the mere fact of running such subversive material was tantamount to leading Scotland full-tilt towards a dangerous and unpredictable future. Most of her friends agreed.

Her view is by no means an isolated one in Scotland now. As the election looms and the possibility, even the prospect, of serious constitutional change becomes a reality, one encounters, among a certain section of Scottish society, a deep hostility, even fear, of the threat this poses to the Union and the status quo. It emerges mainly in conversations with business people, particularly in the financial community, and especially among those who have significant interests south of the border.

The argument is put this way: why should anyone in England or continental Europe or, say, Japan, want to place business with a company in Scotland, when the long-term political future of the country is so uncertain? To swap the deep comfort of Westminster rule for the hurly-burly of self-government, whatever form it takes, is to place at risk 285 years of progress within a tried and tested constitutional framework. It is not, they hasten to add, that devolution is necessarily bad in itself, it is the prospect of instability that is such a worry. There will be more taxes, more bureaucracy, more government. And that, viewed from the boardroom eyrie, means more socialism.

There is a little more to it than that. What the woman in the New Town drawing-room might not be so willing to admit to is the fear of more Scottishness. This was an issue that loomed large during the 1979 referendum debate. It was

caricatured by the writer Tom Nairn as "the cultural sub-nationalism of tartanry," an instinct for Little Scotlandism that might cut the country off from the world and confine it to the grim and narrow shores of its own self-image.

Many of those in the boardrooms and the drawing-rooms have an instinctive distrust of those who might wield power in the new Scotland. They know little about them, but what they do know they distrust.

The pity about this attitude is that it does not accept what has been happening, both in Scotland and in the wider world, over the past decade. There is no suggestion here of recognising a new opportunity or challenge, no willingness to respond to the groundswell of opinion.

Instead, there are gloomy warnings of the dangers that could lie ahead. Not, of course, that they wanted to interfere with the democratic process, but it was worth bearing in mind that if voting went the wrong way, they just might have to move south, putting local jobs at risk.

More recently Lord Weir, head of the family Scottish-based engineering group, announced that he would shift 2,000 jobs out of Scotland in the event of independence. And one Scottish banker told me that a client who runs a major company with branches outside Scotland has announced that he will move his account to an English branch the moment he is told that change is on the way.

This view sees the rising democratic tide as something wilfully encouraged by a biased media. If only the writer was properly informed, they say, he would rapidly understand the dangers of reform and cling to the status quo.

But how well-informed are those who take this view of the average voter? There seems little understanding of the changes that have taken place within Scotland itself, and in Europe, which have influenced public opinion and moved it in the direction of greater independence.

An organisation called Scotland Says No, which fought against change in 1979, is reconstituting itself to fight the same battle. There is no evidence that it believes the ground over which it is rolling out the cannons is any different now, and still seems to see a devoted Scotland as being essentially a socialist Scotland.

The use of the word socialist is revealing. In the divisive days of the 1970s, a Scottish assembly was seen as handing over power to a socialist state, controlled by Strathclyde and Lothian. Then, large parts of the country, particularly in the Highlands and the Borders, dissociated themselves from the terms of the referendum for precisely this reason. Orkney

and Shetland opted out, and there was widespread disagreement about the proposals on offer, which were seen as ceding power to the Labour party's left wing.

Much of that has changed. The Labour party has been reformed, and its left-wing activists have gone. It has taken part in cross-party talks in the Constitutional Convention which has been sitting since 1988 to discuss the practicalities of a Scottish parliament.

Drawing support from interest groups all over the country, the convention has gone to great lengths to ensure a voting system that would not allow a single party to dominate. The fact that Alex Salmond's Scottish National Party and the Conservatives have opted out should not detract from an extraordinary development that has seen the Labour party overcoming its age-old antipathy to proportional representation and accepted its use in electing a Scottish parliament.

The make-up of that parliament shows every sign of being a more civilised version of Westminster, a proper debating chamber in which, ironically, the Tories would do well. In fact, their best chance of making a serious comeback in Scotland would be to take part in the discussions and fight their corner in the convention, rather than pretend it does not exist.

More important, however, has been the change in attitude to the



Scottish National Party rose: the civilised way?

## The imperial egoism of a cat

### MID LIFE

Neil Lyndon's pets make him feel like a cartoon granny



admission of fault, which cannot be allowed. If being a cat means never having to say sorry, it also means you will never find a cat acting sorry for itself, even when it is dying. They don't want sympathy. They know they're on the way out: leave them to get on with it.

The last grain of extra food, the warmest spots by the fire, the tenderest warm showers and dry towelling after wet walks.

In the last two years, he has camped up the strains of his arthritis to such joint-grinding stiffness that I no longer ask him to jump in the back of the car but lift him into the footwell of the passenger seat. (He miraculously overcomes this disability when he scents the possibility of a dog-biscuit, nor does the deafness which allows him to ignore all spoken commands seem to trouble him when he hears a tin-opener cranking up, a feat of perception he can perform, through three doors, from a bed at the top of the house.) I have even been known to wrap this old con-artist in a blanket and put a cushion under his head for his better comfort at night on the sofa in my own room. He closes his eyes with a sigh which breathes, "Sucker!"

You don't get this trouble from cats. They've got too much sense of their own self-worth to bother with sentimental manipulation. When did you ever see a cat abase itself for the sake of a kind word or a cuddle? When, for that matter, did you ever know a cat to apologise? Contrition is alien to the feline world: it would amount to an

days on top of the boiler, whiling away the hours to the end. In the afternoon, he sometimes parks himself on the high-cushioned back of my desk-chair and sleeps there, behind my head, while I work. This is not, however, a concession to conviviality: it happens to be the best place to catch the rays of the sun going west.

He is the last surviving son of my first cat. She, an alley mog and demon scrapper, was given to me by a girlfriend when I lived in a Soho flat where I fought nocturnal battles of trench warfare with death-squads of mice from neighbouring restaurants. She saw them off like a pike in a shoal of perch. When I moved back to the country, she turned her killing arts to rabbits and moles, dragging to the back door stiffs which sometimes weighed as much as she did.

Two nights before she died, she climbed on to my lap at dinner and would not be removed. She stayed there for about two hours, fastened in a connection which I recognised, posthumously, to have been her knowing farewell. You can't tell me a cat doesn't know when it's got cancer. Only dogs and humans are that insensate.

The worst thing about keeping animals is not that they make a monkey out of you while they live

but that they rip you up when they die. Cats go nobly to their end but their owners go to pieces. This grieving doesn't get any easier to bear with age. The deaths of our dogs when I was a child did not touch me more than the end of the alley mog which came in my fortieth year. When my wife's favourite cat was killed on the road outside our house, we were in mourning for three days.

You may feel that this is no way for a grown-up to carry on; and I would have to agree. On the other hand, I reckon that you may not fully know yourself as a poor, bereaved animal if you have never surrendered to the imperial egoism of a cat or recognised that a dog has sussed out every sentimental wrinkle of your character.

The mog has moved now to the corner of the sofa in my room. The young Golden Retriever is grunting in her sleep beneath my desk. The old cat is purring behind my head. The youngest cat is sitting in a drawer of my filing cabinet. I suppose I must look like the grannie in Giles's cartoons with three cats perched on her bonnet. That's all right: there is worse company to be had in the world.

TOMORROW  
Single Life: Lynne Truss

access to Brussels. In Spain, where devolution in provinces like Catalonia has gone hand in hand with growing prosperity, in Italy where the Lombardy League is flexing its muscles, and even in France, allegedly the most centralised of European states, regionalism is the flavour of the decade.

The idea of being able to lobby Brussels directly and to negotiate through a Scottish office in Europe rather than under the UK umbrella is an attractive idea to many Scots. Strathclyde, the largest local authority, has already set up its own office in Brussels, and has done well as a result.

How much all of this will weigh with the voter on April 9 is a moot point. The polls show that issues like health and education are still at the top of the agenda, but the constitutional question has moved steadily up the list to fifth position. When asked how they would like Scotland to be run, most vote for a separate Scottish parliament within the union, and are apparently happy to see it equipped with tax-raising powers. The independence option has never again achieved the astonishing 50 per cent mark it showed during our poll in February. Currently, it stands at 37 per cent, with the Scottish National Party on 27 per cent. This gives the SNP a real opportunity of splitting the Labour and Liberal Democrat vote.

Tories, as a leaked letter from Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, showed last week, believe it is in their interests to encourage this split, and have suggested that people should choose between the two real alternatives on offer — independence or the status quo — leaving the middle ground exposed. This could, of course, backfire badly, as Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the Tory MP facing a strong SNP challenge in Perth and Kinross, pointed out. Both he and Mr Lang, in Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, could fall to the SNP if the trend continues.

The Scots are great tactical voters. The same *Scotsman* poll showed that more than a third of the electorate is prepared to use its vote to oust sitting MPs or keep other candidates out. Signs of voter volatility in the marginal seats are particularly pronounced between the Labour party and the SNP — which could, in practice, work against the Tories.

Everyone realises the stakes are high, and that the choice on offer could make a serious difference to the way Scotland is governed. To say we live in interesting times is putting it mildly.

### INSIDE

Arts	2-3
Modern Times	4
Parents	5
Motor sport	7-10
TV, radio	12

TOMORROW  
The man who hates to say E



## Saturday night at the Shinto Ritual

Travel to Tokyo in the summer, and you might find yourself attending a Naked Festival. But don't worry. While you'll be surrounded by excited young men indulging in a frenzied fertility ritual, you won't be expected to take part. Even more reassuring, you won't be killed...as once happened in this ancient Shinto practice.

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# Victory snatched from defeat

GALLERIES: LONDON

**Richard Cork looks at the first ten years of the "poor relation" of the Barbican Centre, its Art Gallery**

Just over a decade ago, I donned a hard hat and joined a group tour of the nearly completed Barbican Centre. Although the concrete structure was still in a raw state, the spaciousness of the arenas reserved for plays and concerts was resoundingly apparent. But the art gallery was a different matter. Relegated like an afterthought to the top of the building, the main floor was unaccountably surrounded by large plate-glass windows. With considerable pride, our guide commented on the amount of light they admitted to the gallery. But when I asked him where on earth the pictures would hang, he looked puzzled and failed to supply a coherent answer.

The memory of that visit lingers in my mind as a sobering symbol of British cultural priorities. While generous provision is automatically granted to music and theatre, visual art often finds itself treated with humiliating inadequacy. Nowhere more glaringly than in the tacked-on character of the Barbican Art Gallery, which was never intended to stage events on the scale of the Royal Shakespeare Company or the London Symphony Orchestra downstairs.

Why did the Barbican's founders view the gallery's role in such a limiting way? John Hoole, who started as director exactly ten years ago, thinks that the proposed rebuilding of the blitzed Guildhall Gallery may have discouraged ambitious planning for art at the Barbican.

"The founders envisaged that it would be essentially an art-society venue," Hoole says. "The smaller space upstairs was intended to house bought-in shows, while the floor below would be an ambulatory space with a dozen entrances and exits. The idea was to provide it with sculpture and plans, but nobody had properly considered how it would function or what kind of shows might be staged there."

One of Hoole's first tasks was to block out the once-prized windows with wood and plasterboard cladding. The gallery now had walls where paintings could be displayed, but in terms of its status it was still woefully under-funded.

"When I came, there were only two staff members," recalls Hoole, who had previously been deputy director of the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford. "And the first year's shows were done on a budget of £4,000. All we could afford for catalogues were fold-out leaflets in black and white, with a cheap and cheerful checklist alongside a brief description of the exhibits."

During that problematic year, though, Hoole managed to define a realistic policy for the gallery. The final event of the period was a double-bill devoted to Rodin and Asger Jorn — the latter a major retrospective which came to London from the Guggenheim Museum in New York. "That combination of late 19th and early 20th century exhibitions," he says, "seemed to me an expression of how we might proceed."

Only in 1985, however, did Hoole's approach pay real spectacular dividends. He staged a comprehensive retrospective of James Tissot, a previously neglected Victorian whose achievement was ripe for reevaluation. "Even though we had to charge a full-whack entry fee, attendances soared. It really got the visitors going, and we were able to show our peers that exhibitions could be funded through income from the gate."

From then on, financial support for the gallery grew dramatically. The City fathers, who had been very cautious because of capital debts incurred by the building of the centre, recognised that substantial exhibitions could be mounted. Hoole works in close co-operation with Melvyn Barnes, the City's director of libraries, art galleries and records, and acknowledges that "without his support, it wouldn't have been possible to do what the gallery has done."

The staff has risen from two to more than 30, and the annual exhibition budget grew to more than £250,000.

The burgeoning resources enabled Hoole to put on an impressive sequence of well-researched, stimulating and



An example of a well-researched, stimulating and timely exhibition: The Barbican Gallery during 1989's "The Last Romantics"

timely exhibitions. The Gwen John retrospective was a landmark in the reassessment of a grossly under-estimated painter, and the Edwardian era survey opened up another neglected period for comprehensive exploration. So did "The Last Romantics" a year later, and the subsequent survey of Hungarian art's "golden age" introduced a British audience to the full range of art, architecture and design in a then unfamiliar country.

Benefiting from the cultural opening-up engendered by glasnost, Hoole also mounted shows investigating unfamiliar aspects of Russian and Polish art. At the same time, he initiated a distinguished series of photographic retrospectives, commencing with Cecil Beaton

and then moving on to W. Eugene Smith, Karsh and Henry Peach Robinson.

These photographic shows are now an established feature of the gallery's programme, exemplifying Hoole's insistence on looking for "shows that nobody else was interested in staging. I had to find a position which didn't directly compete with the Royal Academy or the Hayward, both backed by bigger resources. No other large venue was doing big, regular photographic shows, and I tried as well to look at artists from an angle that wouldn't cost megabucks."

Hence the recent Stanley Spencer show, which concentrated very effectively on the extraordinary series of visionary and erotic paintings he associated with his Church House project. Hence, too, the

current fascinating survey of Van Gogh in England, focused on the artist's early career but filled with the germs that nourished his later paintings. Taken in conjunction with the bizarre and hallucinatory William Eggleston retrospective upstairs, one of the Barbican's most powerful photographic surveys, the Van Gogh show proves that Hoole's programming has never been better.

For the future, his line-up includes an exhibition of John Heartfield's searing anti-fascist montages, a retrospective of Eric Gill's sculpture and, next year, a massive overview of the Sixties. Despite the continuing difficulties imposed by an awkward building, and a recession-hit dip in attendances, the prospects for the Barbican Art Gallery look buoyant.

**Opera: Paul Griffiths, in New York for *Elektra* at the Met, meets the busy conductor James Levine**

## Strauss represents a breather from Wagner

Last weekend in New York James Levine was relaxing after the consummation of his *Ring* recording, by conducting *Parsifal* and, a couple of days earlier, a new production of *Elektra*. The man is clearly insatiable, but at the same time concentrated. For more than a decade now he has focused his prodigious energies on just a few places: Vienna, Berlin, Bayreuth and the Metropolitan Opera.

"What interests me is the profoundly growing rapport you get when you work with the same singers, the same musicians, on the same pieces year after year after year. I remember Karajan saying to me that with the *Ring* it takes ten years to get the generalities in place; then you can work on the detail. And I think that's true."

I wondered if that was why he had chosen to record the Metropolitan *Ring*, built up during the 1980s, rather than wait until he is conducting the next Bayreuth production, due in 1994.

"Deutsche Grammophon decided that they wanted to make a record of my work

where I was doing it, and this was one of the first things we talked about. But if I did it again, of course, it would be different."

"I think what's interesting now is that people can get to hear different recordings of a piece by the same artist, now that more archive material is becoming available. Every year when I do *Parsifal* here or at Bayreuth a radio recording is made."

By lucky chance, or cunning engineering of schedules, a fair number of the *Ring* principals were around in New York, scattered among the *Parsifal* and *Elektra* casts, and including not least Hildegard Behrens, Levine's Brünnhilde and now his Elektra. Nothing was going to restore the old tone, flexibility and colour to her voice, but in this of all roles the blanching, staring sound, scalded and scalding, had its own frank value and truth, especially when coupled with so rushed and dynamic a stage personality. This was Elektra as war victim: never enjoying herself in however crazed a way, stripped of feeling by her experiences and thrust into action like a starved animal.

The set, by Jürgen Rose, was an imposing structure. It provided all that was needed: a solid high wall with a few strips of apertures into the inner turmoil, a single entrance to the palace, a courtyard, and a sudden new way of entry from the right, beautifully lit, when Orestes arrives.

Otto Schenk's direction did not seem to have done much more than put the singers in this space and let them get on with it. In general it really was enough just to wheel the characters on.

The royal couple were two singers whose careers themselves go back certainly to a heroic past: Leonie Rysaneck and James King. Rysaneck, after just a little time to warm to the part, was in astonishingly good form, the sound full and rich and strong, having no truck with croaking weirdness: a formidable woman. Levine placed the orchestra beautifully for her, the brass before her, nightmare soliloquy seeming to provide a noisome hum from within the palace. King, disguising the decades rather less well than his partner, offered a foolish



Levine: "I want the feeling of a first performance"

Aegisthus: it is a way of seeing the character. Bernd Weild as Orestes came as full summer into winter and spring, with a proud bearing, a beautiful commanding tone and a sense for the shape and sound of verbal phrases: Deborah Voigt as Chrysothemis was also in passionately alive, rich voice, though she made a rather too majestic impression. She too was sumptuously accommodated and closely, characterfully followed by Levine's orchestral accompaniment. Unlike *Elektra*, *Parsifal* is scheduled in laser disc video

and compact disc versions, and Levine will be profiting from long experience in New York and at Bayreuth. Was he aware of development in his performance of a score he obviously feels close to?

"There are two things. One is that there are more specifics in the expression. And also the long paragraphs, without losing unity and flow, are broken up into smaller units. It's a question of the right atmosphere. What I always want in music is the feeling of a first performance, the feeling this is happening for the one and only time."

offended, not so much out of religious guilt, but a sense that it was the politically smart thing to do.

This is presumably where fact ended and — give or take a few details — fiction began. But what an epic fiction it was as the story galloped across Europe to the sea ports of Italy and on into Palestine, with great battles, sea chases, piracy and life at the court of the leper king of Jerusalem all neatly tucked into the 90 minutes. I couldn't help wondering whether the director, Nigel Bryant, was in any way related to that late great chronicler of historic glory, Arthur Bryant, because old Arthur (not to mention G.A. Henry) would certainly have been proud of this, and were he still around, David Lean would have made a lovely movie out of it.

PATRICK STODDART

There can be few choices more terrible, and the man at the centre of *Prometheus* in *Evin* (Radio 3, last Tuesday) made the choice that would destroy him. He chose the soul-corroding slow death of television, and the ignominy that comes with it.

We are not talking about Jeremy Beadle here (although it's anybody's guess what his kind of television does to the psyche) but the way dictatorships can use the world's most powerful medium of communication to do far worse things than turn home videos into an alleged form of entertainment. Iraj Jannati-Ataie is a dissident Iranian writer, and his play was about dissident writers everywhere who are imprisoned, tortured and then offered a choice by The System: death or recantation.

What Ataie made horribly clear, too, is that death offers

## RADIO REVIEW

### Death, glory or television

little glory in a well-run system that can kill by anonymous drowning as efficiently as by the martyr-making firing squad and which, in fact, doesn't need to kill at all in order to destroy. The writer's interrogator tells him: "We could give you lots of medals, and a bank account with dozens of zeros on the balance sheet. Articles in books could appear under your name praising us, and we could go on television and give you an award for your services to The System." Death by dishonour, with television as the lethal weapon.

To avoid further punishment, our hero — if that is what he was — chose to appear

on television and deny the work of a lifetime, only to renege on his recantation when the shame became too great, and shoot his interrogator in a crowded restaurant. His reward might have been in heaven, but his wife's arrival on earth, in the shape of the secret policeman who beat her and her unborn child to — we assume — death.

There was no escape from the bleak hopelessness of it all and Ataie's moral was that Evin is not just a prison in Tehran, it is "the gigantic bloated corpse of violated yesterday's on the wounded shoulders of today". The prose might be a touch purple for most tastes, perhaps, but he

almost certainly has a point. One thing to be said for television is that it has, at least, made recantation a bit easier. If the four Norman knights who murdered Thomas a Becket had been able to appear on *Kilroy*, they might not have needed to look for death on the Crusades — the fate decreed for them by Rome when they craved forgiveness. Peter Roberts's immensely enjoyable Monday Play, *Assassins*, on Radio 4 last night, started with Becker's death and followed the misfortunes of his killers thereafter. Outlawed by the King who put them up to it, one fled to Scotland and the others turned to the Church they had

## ARTS BRIEF

### Musical mates?

LET us not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments. Nevertheless, the latest conjunction of talents offered as a gimmick by the ever ingenious record business seems bizarre. Over the next two years, Sony Classical will be re-issuing 100 recordings conducted by Leonard Bernstein, made for the old Columbia label in the Sixties and Seventies. Each of these CDs will be graced with a cover displaying a watercolour by the Prince of Wales. This tactic allows Sony Classical to entitle the collection "The Royal Edition". "With this special artistic touch," says the record company, "we mean to pay Leonard Bernstein the respect he deserved." But some music lovers might wonder what possible connection there is between the Prince's gentle, pastoral scenes and the angst-ridden historicisms of the average Bernstein interpretation.

**Last chance...** LONDON is one of the best places in the world to stage a show of the 16th century master Andrea Mantegna. Even if one of his masterpieces, *The Agony in the Garden*, is considered too fragile to make the journey from the National Gallery to the Royal Academy, one of his largest and most ambitious works, the nine-part *Triumphs of Caesar*, is only at Hampton Court, and the eight parts already restored have been lent to the Academy (071-439 7438) to form the climax of this powerful show. It continues until Sunday.

tribunals, ombudsmen and investigation committees with a reverence for law and order not evident at any other time of the week. All the forum seemed to teach them was how to be publicly cruel to one another.

How do those who pass out of Summerhill fare as real adults in the inhibited world, away from their weapon-stocked playground? This documentary majored on the freak-show element — in one scene, a boy remembers a pet rabbit with a huge scimitar; in another, two plump turkeys patrol the dormitory corridor at night (Daff lives!) — but there was woeful reluctance to analyse. Why do parents send their children here? The headmistress, if that is not too grand a word, revealed that Summerhill is a good place to get rid of anger. So is the squash court. So what?

Like the children they pointed their cameras at, directors Peter Getzels and Harriet Gordon Getzels were guilty of enjoying the freedom of the moment. They brought back extraordinary footage, but even flies on the wall sometimes have to do more than stare.

JASPER REES

## TELEVISION

### Lessons for the parents

By a swimming pool, a man and a woman are loitering. They could not be more naked if they lived in Eden. A svelte teenage girl leaps over a pole and jackknives lithely into the water. She is also naked. A male adolescent voice off-camera shouts an obscenity. It is not known whether he, too, is naked. Free-dangling anatomy and bad, minimal dialogue if this is not *Emmanuelle Takes a Dip with the Ullmanns*, the viewer will have been thinking, then I'll eat my video-programming bar code chart.

The incredulous checked their calendars in vain: tomorrow is April Fool's Day, yet *Summerhill* at 70, a *Cutting Edge* documentary for Channel 4, was screened yesterday. It was about a 70-year-old mixed boarding school in Suffolk, where there is no moral restraint, no bedtime, and apparently no call for swimming costumes. Soft-core had nothing to do with it, unless one diagnosed that that is what was to be found inside the head of A.S. Neill, the man who founded this novel educational establishment.

His widow, propped up on a walking stick, was still there, and despite her seniority was

not above spitting out the odd expletive, though she could not compete with the pupils. They made *Scarface* sound like *Doolittle*. A random transcription from the soundtrack would have to include a lot of asterisks.

In this election's heated argument about educational policy, all sides would agree on one fundamental tenet: schoolchildren are obliged to show up for lessons. Who would they vote for at Summerhill? On the evidence of a term-and-a-half of filming, the only lessons anyone voluntarily attends involve either sex talk or explosive chemical reactions.

But in this hotbed of delinquency a vocabulary of debate thrives. Such regulations as do exist the kids decree themselves, in weekly mini-parliaments where they argue over

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# Sisters do it for themselves

GEOFFREY DOWE



The only way is up: on both sides of the Atlantic, black women are overcoming the effects of "double discrimination" — and leaving their male contemporaries behind

When Mike Tyson's six-year prison sentence for raping a young beauty contestant was announced last week, many black women did not know whether to rejoice or protest.

Ever since the boxer was charged, two heavyweight and politically correct arguments have been battling it out among black women. In one corner is the "sisterhood" argument: a woman was raped and the courts should lock up the perpetrator and throw away the key.

In the opposite corner is the view that a black man has been used as a scapegoat because America could not afford another high-profile acquittal after the William Kennedy-Smith verdict. Pro-Tyson campaigners say that if a white man had been accused of rape in similar circumstances (if he had been visited by the victim in the small hours) he would never have been convicted.

The debate left black women on both sides of the Atlantic siding with white feminists rather than with their brothers. And for many it added another few inches to the ever-widening chasm between the agendas of black women and men.

In Britain the success of women of African or Caribbean origin in education, employment and the economy is the subject of the most intense debate in black sexual politics. Although black women are vulnerable to double discrimination, it has not followed that they

are any worse off than black men.

The black battle of the sexes is almost the reverse of the white one. While white feminists bemoan a system which favours white men, many black men feel they have cause for complaint when they look at the relative success of their mothers and sisters. The conventional stereotype of the subservient black woman rarely able to find more than menial work has been wiped out. In many fields black women have put black men — and, for that matter, whites of both sexes — to shame.

An employment department labour force survey in 1990 found that while 16 per cent of Afro-Caribbean women obtain a degree or equivalent qualification, the figure is only 1 per cent for black men. The proportion of black women with degrees is also higher than that of white men and women. The same survey showed that, of working black women in Britain, an estimated 31 per cent are in managerial or professional positions, compared with only 17 per cent of black men (and 27 per cent of white women).

Traditionally, Caribbean parents teach their children that education is the key to success. Particularly in the face of prejudice, black youngsters are told they need to be armed with certificates to combat the negative stereotypes. But it seems that girls are more likely to take up the challenge. In a recent survey commissioned by *The Voice* newspaper, nearly one in ten 16 to 30-

## Tension between black men and women is increasing — and the women are coming off best, Lesley Thomas reports

year-old black males questioned said they did not see the point of education, compared with only 1 per cent of females.

Duonne Alexander-Moore typifies the determined black woman of the 1990s. The Trinidad-born 43-year-old has just published *The Black Cinderella*, her own story of building a successful small busi-

ness. Five years ago — soon after she left her husband, taking her two daughters with her — Ms Alexander-Moore decided to market one of her home-made recipes.

She now sells Gramma's Hot Pepper Sauce to Harrod's and Fortnum & Mason, as well as to major chain stores. She was the first black woman to be given the highly regarded Women Mean Business award, and has been shortlisted for next month's National Food Processing award. "It has been a hard slog," says Ms Alexander-Moore, who spent the first two-and-a-half years of her new career working from the small kitchen of her council flat. "I knew

nothing about running a small business when I started. I learnt by trial and error, but I always looked upon each so-called failure as a lesson which could help me to improve."

"I think we have a capacity for sacrificing and sticking to our goals no matter how long it takes. Many black women have had to learn to

**'Black women are now economically in advance and a lot of men resent it'**

cope on low budgets and to make do with very little. I think those kinds of values have helped me to battle on in these first few years in business."

Lee Jasper of the National Black Caucus pressure group explains that black men have not shown the perseverance of black women. "Black women seem to have a greater degree of commitment to reaching their goals," he says. "The problem with a lot of black men is that they look for the 'quick fix' to success. Unfortunately often the fastest ways to make money involve a high risk of failure or even crime."

"Black women seem to have a more realistic view than men. They know that you have to work hard if you want something. They are now economically in advance and a lot of the men resent it."

Another theory is that it is easier for black women to get ahead in a society that is run by white males. White men, it is argued, are threatened by the black man — a fear which, ironically, is based on white-invented stereotypes of the dangerous black male. But black women are seen as being even less of a threat than white women, so nobody stands in their way.

Ms Alexander-Moore agrees that low expectations of her have worked in her favour. "There is a lot of pressure on men to succeed quickly, while I had the time and space to achieve my goals slowly and surely."

"Men, on the other hand, are not able to be seen to fail. I think in a way the pressures have paralysed a lot of men. They don't see the point in trying when there are so many ways they can fall down."

Black boys are rarely confronted with positive role models. The most public male "success" stories (boxers, footballers and comedians) are seldom ones that black parents want their children to emulate.

"For many young boys, the nearest they see to decent role models are black men in flash cars," Mr Jasper says. "They're not exactly an inspiration to them to go to university or get training."

One supposedly complimentary argument is that black women are the amazonian superwomen that the 1980s were supposed to have produced. But this — like the championing of black sportsmen and entertainers — is yet another stereotype. The idea of the black woman as a natural tough cookie devalues individual efforts, explaining them away in terms of genetics.

Few men — black or white — are comfortable with the idea of a partner who has a larger salary and a more successful career. And, with an insufficient number of successful black men to go round (exacerbated by the fact that black women in Britain marginally outnumber black men) many black women have had to go it alone.

Others have settled with white partners which, for many black men, is the ultimate sell-out. "Pollywannafracker," the song by the rap group Public Enemy (cracker meaning caucasian), is an account of the community's bitter dismissal of the growing numbers of black women who claim they cannot find black men to match their status.

Black men, Mr Jasper says, should not be allowed to make any more excuses. "I reject the idea that successful black women have sold out. Of course men are under a lot of pressure and we have to fight against racism, but the same is true for women. The sooner black men stop blaming people and follow the sisters' example, the better."

Lesley Thomas is the political editor of *The Voice*.

## Heroes on the quiet

Most Britons still prefer private lives

This is the age of hype, when every Brownie pack studies how to lure the local press to its fate. Fifteen minutes of fame is every citizen's right. Everyone wants to be in the papers. Don't they?

Well, actually no. Political manipulators came a cropper last week over the War of Jennifer's Ear, largely because — themselves living on publicity — they failed to realise that a huge, silent, respectable majority of the nation does not want its name in the newspapers. Not at all. Not even in a context of utter blamelessness. They have ticked the box marked "No Publicity" for life.

Not only was the family at the heart of the storm pretty furious at being named, but when the Labour party hastily whacked out a list of ten other parallel cases, reporters who phoned them met a high proportion of indignant stone-walling. "No — I don't want to be named." Click! And Labour looked even crasser than before.

The legend about everyone wanting their name in the press must be nailed. At least in the national press: the blander local papers find their readers generally willing to be identified as Mrs C. J. Plug, winner of the Best Decorated Chair competition at the Women's Institute. Yet even they are cautious: a local reporter says that often, of late, the subjects of her andyone reports have said, "My name won't get into those real newspapers, will it?"

For, incredible though it may seem to gossip columnists and the entourage of Danni Minogue, a strong folklore in Britain holds that being in the papers is bad luck. Embarrassing. A kind of hijack of their privacy. Not only the reclusive aristocracy feels this way: recently an office cleaner was mortified when the papers picked up the story of her rescue of a man in a lift. And according to victim support agencies, bereaved parents can be sent into a rage by a small error in the paper — for instance that their child was on his way to Cuba, when he was really going swimming.

But even people not in crisis still display modest loathings. A long, sensible, frank interview about a completely creditable aspect of someone's life is often followed by an agonised, "Oh, but you won't put my name, will you?" and a haggling session, at the end of which you agree to call them Andy and Sue, and to pretend they live in Wexham.

"We wouldn't want letters" is another frequent explanation, even when you have only been asking about their triumph in installing a DIY swimming pool. One can sympathise: there is a whole subculture of keen old ladies who write demanding letters for their pet cause to anyone whose appearance in the papers suggests they might have a few bob; not to mention the green-link brigade.

Some of the reluctance is odder, and deeper than mere practicalities. It is more like the primitive tribesman's dread of having his soul stolen by the camera. An Englishman's castle is very private indeed. It takes a conscious, careful decision to open it up: as much for ordinary people as for the star who sells his hearth to *Hellto*.

Even if you are proud of your story, the invasion of privacy involved in being photographed in your front room, or letting your offspring be named a Child of Courage is considerable. Sensitive journalists respect this. They also, alas, often end up calling people Andy and Sue.

LIBBY PURVES

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## I played drink-drivers' lottery

One night last November — 1.30am, November 26 to be precise — I was arrested for drink-driving at Cranford, near Hounslow in west London. The legal proceedings which followed, and which have only just ended, have given me an alarming insight into the unpredictability and inconsistency which surrounds the punishing of drink-drivers.

It was my first offence of any kind and there were no aggravating circumstances. That is to say the car was not crashed, nobody was hurt and I was not driving dangerously. The police simply pulled me over having noticed I was not wearing a safety belt and had a damaged rear light.

To my horror, however, I produced a reading back at the station which showed I was three-and-a-half times over the legal limit. My mitigating circumstances were hardly exceptional and could not excuse my actions: I had sought solace in vodka at a theatre bar following an argument with a girlfriend who had stormed home alone.

"You haven't exactly picked the best time of the year to go drink-driving, have you sir?" said one of the policemen at

the station. I realised then that my case would be coming up shortly before Christmas.

Having resigned from my job (my ability to do it properly depended upon being able to drive), my first dilemma was whether or not I should hire a solicitor.

"It would be best not to," advised a solicitor-friend. "If they were considering a custodial sentence and you were unrepresented, they would adjourn the case so you could get legal representation. But they will almost certainly want to get the matter out of the way quickly."

"Just point out you've been driving for ten years and have a clean licence, explain the circumstances and apologise profusely. You'll be fine."

So I arrived at Uxbridge court on Friday, December 13, with something approaching confidence. Perhaps the date should have warned me. An usher told me that a duty solicitor wanted to speak to me. Having already determined my course of action, however, I decided that speaking to a solicitor was pointless.

After waiting one hour — during which time my case could easily have been called — I decided that what the

**Jeremy Lamb tells how a vodka binge led him into a legal game of chance — with a jail sentence for the losers**

solicitor had to say might just be helpful.

"Ah, Mr Lamb," he began. "Are you pleading guilty?" "Yes." "Were you much over the limit?" "Three-and-a-half times."

"Surrender," he exclaimed. "You realise you'll be going to prison, don't you? A stipendiary magistrate is on duty this morning. He's sending all drink-drivers down. I've just had a client given two months inside and his reading was lower than yours."

A glance through the courtroom doorway was enough to tell me the stipendiary looked just as terrifying as he sounded.

"So what do I do?" I asked. I was advised to plead not guilty, thus getting an ad-



Jeremy Lamb feared jail

judgment until after Christmas. A date would be arranged when, perhaps, the stipendiary would not be sitting. Then I would change my plea back to guilty and be represented, on the second occasion, by the solicitor himself or one of his partners.

Having followed his advice I left the court feeling like the artful dodger. I also felt guilty about the young man whose reading had been lower than mine but who was now spending Christmas in prison.

The Christmas period provided some disturbing news. On December 28, a woman was given a five-day prison sentence, disqualified from driving for 15 months and

fined £200 at Horseferry Road magistrates' court for driving while less than twice over the alcohol limit. It was her first offence and there were no aggravating circumstances.

Better news arrived when Judge Gerald Butler overruled this sentence on January 24 at Southwark Crown Court. He upheld the fine and the driving ban but quashed the prison sentence.

Pamela London, the sentencing magistrate at Horseferry Road, had said: "I have a duty to the public, especially at this time of year." But Judge Butler declared: "I know of no principle that suggests that because an offence is committed at a particular time of year it is either more or less serious. Drink-driving is as serious in June as it is in December."

Would the magistrates at Uxbridge take note of this? I pleaded guilty at the court in February and was dismayed when my case was adjourned for a further four weeks so that a social enquiry report could be made on me. It looked ominous, since a social enquiry report is often a precursor to a prison sentence.

Judgment Day was Friday, March 13. Another Friday the 13th — but it was either that or

the dreaded stipendiary the following Monday so I decided I was not superstitious.

I made the right decision: the sentence was a 12-month driving ban, the minimum the court could impose, and a £300 fine plus £40 costs. After my fears of prison, it seemed scarcely believable.

Now my point is not that the sentence was wrong. My offence had already cost me a good job, and no doubt the bench bore that in mind. Moreover, I have genuine remorse about the incident and have vowed that once my licence is returned I will never drive again with so much as a shandy inside me.

To be caught drink-driving is to enter oneself in a lottery. Legal guidelines for this offence seem non-existent at worst; inconsistent at best. I never had any idea whether a fine, community service or prison awaited me — and none of my legal advisers had much idea either. And I only avoided Christmas in prison because I was not called into court on December 13 in the hour's wait before speaking to a solicitor. I hope magistrates bear Judge Butler's words in mind next Christmas.

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مكتبة العصر





Juggling requests for help: a young passer-by gets in on the act during last year's Christmas appeal by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in London

## No want of good causes

When seven-year-old Matthew Richmond went on Greenpeace's sponsored walk to save the whales last summer, he surpassed all expectations. His success in completing the full ten miles of the course was, however, something of an embarrassment to his mother Robin Rubenstein.

"I'd gone round friends and neighbours saying, 'It'll be a couple of miles at most', but he has a healthy sense of money and I think that spurred him on. He thought he was saving the planet single-footedly. It's certainly further than he's ever walked before. He's always saying, 'I can't go another step'. He will never be able to say that again."

Even Matthew's five-year-old brother, Michael, managed half the route around Trent country park in north London. "They went with two friends and jollied each other along. They came back very dirty, very wobbly-legged and very proud. I did tell their sponsors not to feel obligated, but people were generous. They raised about £100. I think our street must own a whale by now."

No one knows exactly how much of the £18 billion income a year of UK charities is raised by children but to many parents, faced with seemingly endless requests to sponsor or this or that, it sometimes feels like nearly all of it.

The demand is such that organisations such as the National Confederation of Parents' Teacher Associations (NCPTA) are increasingly concerned about the pressure it puts on families. Margaret Morrissey, the group's spokeswoman, says: "It comes up a lot at meetings. People want to give their support — they don't want to seem mean — but they feel it is getting a bit out of hand,

As pressures increase on parents to sponsor their offspring's efforts to save the world, Liz Gill calculates the cost of charity at home

especially when perhaps it is something the government should be paying for, anyway.

"We are in a recession and, if you have two or three children, with the best will in the world you cannot always afford it. It can also cause terrible upsets if one family can afford it and another cannot."

"If charities are not careful, they are going to put parents off. Perhaps these organisations ought to think seriously before they plan these events or allow them in their name. It is getting to the point where it might be counter-productive."

Many parents end up putting the cash in themselves, rather than constantly asking the same friends, relatives and neighbours, as Margaret McGowan of the National Children's Play and Recreation Unit did when Eve, her 14-year-old daughter, did a seven-mile walk round Richmond Park for Friends of the Earth.

"She got so few sponsors I ended up forking out the bulk of the £50 she raised. You do seem to get a never-ending stream of requests. I don't like asking people because there's no way they can say no."

"Of course I'm really pleased she cares about the world, but I don't want her to feel she has to solve its problems single-handedly. Children take things terribly seriously and terribly personally. They think it's up to them to save the planet or the Third World."

Many parents and would-be sponsors are uneasy about the nature of some events. Although the NCPTA has lent its support to St Thomas Hospital's neonatal unit 'Potty' ap-

peal, where children seek sponsorship for "silly events", Mrs Morrissey prefers an event which is directly beneficial to someone. "Of course, some things can be just for fun, though you occasionally feel the effort that goes into something silly might have been better used."

Robin Rubenstein, a classical pianist, generally regards fund-raising as a "good deed in a naughty world. Something like a walk stretches children, and makes them

**'I ended up forking out the bulk of the £50 she raised'**

think, but other events are often very silly, such as sponsored silences."

Mrs McGowan is particularly unhappy about sponsored fasts, often undertaken by adolescent girls already self-conscious about eating. "I think they also trivialise the real problem. It's offensive to those who are really starving to suggest you are punting yourself in their place by going without food for a day."

Both Mike Talbot's teenage daughters, Katharine 13, and Jennifer, 15, took part in a 24-hour sponsored fast last Saturday to raise money for World Vision, a Christian charity working in developing countries. "The idea was to go without food, though they were allowed to

drink," says Mr Talbot, a civil engineer from Sevenoaks in Kent.

"Of course, you can never fully identify with the difficulties people have in the Third World, but fasting is quite a good symbol and may feel like a more direct link than, say, a sponsored walk. And if you are going to do something for a Christian charity during Lent, this might be a more appropriate way than doing something silly."

"They will have raised around £30 between them. I am proud of them for having the self-discipline, and pleased that they were able to do something to help others."

Sponsorship is not new, as Stephen Lee, director of the Institute of Charity Fund Raisers and a trustee of Thames Television, points out.

"The knights were sponsored by the kings to fight the Crusades, the cathedrals of the middle ages were sponsored by individuals."

"And if you want to do something silly and so benefit one or a number of causes, I can't see the problem."

Nor can Alex Howe, spokesman for the BBC's Children in Need which raised £17.2 million this year from more than 35,000 events, among them sit-ins in baths of custard, beans and raw eggs. "People do astonishing things, their enthusiasm knows no bounds," he says. The organisers produce an A to Z of sponsorship from apple-bobbing to sleeps. "We stress events must be safe, legal and workable, and that volunteers must keep an accurate account of the money. But we don't legislate for taste."

Sponsorship not only raises mon-

ey, says Stephen Lee, it also helps publicise the cause. "Fund-raising is about developing relationships with donors over a period of time, and this is only sustained if people are aware of the aims of an organisation and want to be part of it."

Encouraging such involvement was part of the motivation for Oxfam's Leap Day last month, aimed particularly at the young, who were asked to raise cash by doing sponsored leapfrogs. Louise Lobo, one of the organisers, says: "We need younger supporters, and if they come for the fun they might find out more about us at the same time."

"If they have done something once for Oxfam, the next time they hear of us they will be more interested."

Oxfam still raises most of its money through direct appeals, but one of the risks of sponsorship must be that the event itself increasingly overshadows the reason for doing it. Thus the trend now is for the sponsor to reward the effort and ingenuity of the sponsored, rather than the merit of the cause.

Margaret Morrissey is also worried that sponsorship is being attached to more and more areas of life. "As a society, we have always had this sense of commitment, of helping our neighbours. It would be a shame if we stopped doing things for their own sake, without always bringing money into it."

For parents beleaguered by ever growing demands, she suggests setting aside a finite amount of money at the beginning of the year. "You talk to your children and tell them that is what's available, and how they use it is up to them. That way you don't cause a family trauma every time there's a new request."

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Forget the fuss and the tears. Three families reveal their secrets for getting the children happily to school

## Surviving the early rush hour

Getting the children to school on time is the cause of many a parental ulcer. After staggering to the bathroom, you must then prise children from warm beds, dress them, feed them, clean teeth, find missing shoes, sponge down the sports kit still dirty from last week, tack on missing name tapes and scan the morning's spelling test. All this, plus preventing sibling spats and keeping calm yourself.

One solution, discovered by Elizabeth Martin, a mother of three from Buckinghamshire, is to sleep through the psychological and physical warfare being waged in the kitchen below. There is a price to pay: Mrs Martin does much of the work the night before, sometimes staying up until 2am. "I've always been a night person," she says cheerfully, "and prefer to get school uniforms ready and do the housework then. We used to have a girl who'd get the children ready for school but she was hopeless, mainly because she'd been out all night with her boyfriend so was in no fit state herself."

Now the children are aged

12, 10 and five, Mr Martin — a college lecturer — has taken over the morning job before leaving for his own at 8am. His wife dozes until 8.30am, before waking to an empty house and breakfast debris.

Mr Martin is surprisingly defensive about their system. "People around here think we're crazy and assume Elizabeth is lazy. But she works very hard tidying up this huge house. And if she prefers to do so late at night, why not?"

Perhaps we should all try it. The Martins work thus: midnight or later: Mrs Martin lays the breakfast table and puts out clean school uniforms. About 7am: her husband wakes up Lisa, Duncan and Maud. The eldest helps the younger dress. 7.20am: Mr Martin has egg and bacon on table. 7.55am: Duncan is picked up for the school run. Mr Martin drops off Maud for hers, then takes Lisa to station. "It all works and we don't normally have any panics," she says.

In the Stokes household in Carshalton, Surrey, where nine-year-old triplets (Victoria, Georgina and Rebecca) plus Lizzie, 12, and Mary, 13,



Breakfast meeting: Bride and Peter Stokes with, from left, Georgina, Victoria, Rebecca, Lizzie and Mary

all have to be out of the house by 8.30am, structure is the backbone. "They used to be down to breakfast at the same time and then upstairs to dress, but there were too many of them and everyone needed the bathroom at once," Bride Stokes, their health visitor mother says. Her husband, Peter, leaves at 7.30am without breakfast. ("He hates the rush").

Mrs Stokes gets up at 6.25am ("If the Teasmade doesn't work I'm in a mood") before waking Mary at 6.30. "Lizzie gets up immediately at 7am and has porridge, which I prepare the night before. Lizzie has breakfast before the triplets, then the others come down, usually dressed. All the children are expected to put their dishes in the sink and clear the table."

Although Mrs Stokes has laid out uniforms, and prepared the non-sandwich part

of three packed lunches (two have school meals), there have been emergencies. Victoria once bumped her head and had to be rushed to hospital for stitches, while Georgina recently left her shoes in her father's car (her mother keeps a box of outgrown footwear, just in case). Mrs Stokes also has a box of spare tights, plus second-hand uniforms in case she falls behind with the laundry.

Friday (swimming day) can be a nightmare — swimming cap straps always go missing although Mrs Stokes has a drawer of spares. Musical instruments have also been rushed to school after their owners' departure (recorders for all five on Tuesday and Wednesday; flute for Victoria on Tuesday and Mary on Wednesday and Thursday; violin for Georgina on Wednesday, trumpet

for Rebecca on Wednesday). Amazingly, Mrs Stokes prefers a mental rather than a written rota for all this.

Tips for speeding up children include yanking back the bedclothes and warning the two older girls that they will not get a lift to school, a ten-minute walk away. "I sick to my threats, too. I walk the triplets to school and we revise vocabulary and spelling tests en route."

Mrs Stokes then dashes off to work herself. "Today I forgot to have breakfast. I also work on Thursday nights in an old people's home, and don't return until 8am. Mary will have done all the others' hair and got them breakfast. And, no matter how awful they've been, I always kiss them goodbye."

Many a man has been known to mutter, "I could do better," so how does a single father cope with the turmoil?

Denis Cooling (41, an unemployed gardener from Kent and father of Mathew, 17, and Jennifer, 13) believes in keeping calm and delegating. "I wouldn't like to tell you what time we get up (well, 8am actually) but it's an organised 'quite late'. I've stopped forcing the children to eat breakfast and for the last two years, they've prepared their own packed lunches and laid out clothes the night before."

Mathew — who as a sixth-former does not wear a uniform — has only once come down in unacceptable clothing. "He had borrowed one of my lumberjack shirts which looked silly hanging out from under his leather jacket. Otherwise, we're all calm. People make too much fuss about the morning rush."

JANE BIDDER  
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## Icing over the guilt

Theme cakes are just another brick in the wall for the busy parent

A perfect summer afternoon. The garden beckoned and the sun was shining through the kitchen window, illuminating two objects on the table. A plain cake and next to it an open book with an illustration of a marvellous confection, a veritable model of my son's favourite nursery rhyme character. I had two hours to make one into the other.

It looked so easy. I had already bought a chocolate egg which would soon take on the appearance of Humpty Dumpty. That was no problem. But I had reckoned without the Wall.

Within seconds, a huge bag of icing sugar had as if by magic been reduced to the smallest quantity of tinted (wall-coloured) paste at the bottom of a bowl. This characteristic of icing sugar, always to give a poor return on itself, has never ceased to fascinate me, as one who is not a willing cake-baker. A mere quarter of the wall was covered.

The only shop was closed for half-day. Soon the guests would be arriving with their presents and their expectant faces. Luckily the day was saved by a telephone call to a friend nearby who provided enough sugar to build a passable Wall.

The moral of this tale of domestic trivia is not only that things should never be left until the last minute but that children's birthday cakes have definitely got out of hand.

As parents, we too have a right to enjoy our children's parties. The fashion for elaborate cakes denies this pleasure. It can be anything you like: a crinoline lady, a train, a 3-D model of a television cartoon character. As long as it does not look like a cake.

These structures have a stage life of about two minutes. Hidden away during the tea, they are borne in as a *pièce de résistance* to cries of delight and admiration, or silent curses from parents. The candles are blown out and the cake disappears to be cut up, given out and taken home. As often as not, it will end up in the bin as the fact is that children do not like cake anyway.

The surprise element is sadly lacking in our house. Having made a cake I insist that it sit in the party in full view, in recognition of the time spent on it.

Tales of failure abound. A friend whose space rocket collapsed the night before the party had to lie awake planning an entirely new idea for the next day, salvaging what was left. She once sent to table a teddy bear cake held together

by providence and a kebab skewer.

Even the most simple ideas turn out to be difficult. The musical notes for "Happy Birthday To You" in black on white seemed apt for a daughter who had just started to learn the piano. At least it was flat: 3-D cakes are much harder. Fortunately there was a boss chef and not a treble on the version we were copying. Nevertheless I had to explain what the finished cake was meant to be.

There are parents who spend whole evenings constructing these edifices, in fact two evenings, since the cake has to be made the night before the decoration can take place. This assumes to what is in essence the inside of a week. The novelist Flora Thompson wrote that to spend this length of time on one item of cuisine, in that



case a jelly, was considered by some women to be absurd. She was referring to the 1880s. We lead busy lives: we need easy cakes.

As long as there are candles, children will not mind. Since a bash for a dozen infants can leave two adults comatose all evening, we owe it to ourselves to remove this scourge of modern party-giving. The delight on your child's face will not evaporate if a traditional cake appears. So buy a frill, some sugar roses, a silver ballerina or a figure of a Disney hero. And, most important, some silver balls. These are immensely popular, more so than something which took all evening to make. Outlaw tyrannical cakes in your area. Or, if you're really busy, buy one.

I can console myself with the fact that, assuming each child stops having parties at ten, I have held the 16th party of a parental career and have only 11 to go. And from now on, traditional cakes will be on the menu.

ELIZABETH PARHAM  
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## THIS VERY SICK DONKEY HAS BEEN SLASHED WITH A MACHETE



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# Turn a game into a full-time job

Joan Llewelyn Owens on the exciting prospects for those who do more with their golfing talents than merely play

Many golfers are thwarted. They may get a game on a "pay and play" public course but about 1.2 million of them are failing to get into golf clubs. Waiting lists, says the English Golf Union (EGU), can be 15 years. In the next ten years 1,600 more courses will be needed in Europe as a whole and 700 in Britain.

The EGU database shows 1,700 applications to build. Many are being built already, creating a need for more professionals to teach, repair clubs and run a shop, more people to design, construct and maintain golf courses, and more people capable of managing what are often leisure complexes.

For these needs, Merrist Wood Agricultural College, near Guildford, Surrey, has a three-year golf studies HND with the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) and Kingston Polytechnic. Candidates must have had at least two years as an active club member. A handicap of five or better is desirable.

The two college years will include business studies, financial and personnel management, market-

ing, computing, European studies, club repair, teaching skills, golf rules, tournament administration, and a continual emphasis on playing skills. Options in the third year will allow a more detailed study of selected areas and will also include golf course design, agronomy and green-keeping. A sandwich year will be spent with a PGA-approved employer.

The HND is the brainchild of George Shiels, the vice-principal of Merrist Wood and a consultant agronomist to the PGA European Tour, who wants to create a European centre for all golf-related education.

The main aim of the course is to prepare future club and tournament professionals, but some students may eventually become golf centre managers, marketing specialists, tournament officials or golf course architects. If some decide against a career in golf, their training will enable them to enter management or contracting in other industries, Mr Shiels says.

John May, the senior HND course manager, says the golf professional's role is changing. Business has increased enormously,



Keen player: Paul Mould spends about half his time on site and travels a fair amount in the UK

particularly on public golf courses. "It is a go-go type of business from 6am throughout the day," Mr May says. "Many professionals are becoming virtually leisure centre managers."

Increased demand has provided new opportunities, too, for those

who design and construct courses. Golf course architects and designers come from various backgrounds, including architecture, landscaping, surveying, town planning and civil engineering.

Merrist Wood's HND in landscape contract management could

provide a good foundation. A student on this course, Bill Ellis, aged 23, has just started on his sandwich year with Howard Swan and Partners, experts in course design, irrigation, maintenance and construction. Mr Ellis says the ecological side is likely to grow.

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects has recently introduced a scheme of part-time training for people who wish to become golf architects. The two-year scheme, grant-aided by the Royal and Ancient, consists of working weekends supervised by practising golf architects.

Constructors, as well as designers, have arrived by different routes. Many have experience in landscaping, horticulture, agronomy or civil engineering. Paul Mould, aged 24, a contracts co-ordinator for Dorset-based Brian D. Pierson (Contractors), has an HNC in building studies and will soon become a member of the Chartered Institute of Builders.

The company has completed 160 golf course projects in 14 years, including alterations to seven Open Championship courses. Mr Mould spends about half his time on site and half in the office. He travels a fair amount in the UK and has visited the Continent for meetings.

Further information: Merrist Wood Agricultural College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE; Institute of Golf Course Architects, The Phoenix, c/o Tandridge Golf Club, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9NQ; British Association of Golf Course Constructors, Administrative Office, Dairy Yard, High Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NL; Training Department, Professional Golfers Association, Apollo House, The Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 9PT.

## Two-in-one career fair

DIRECTIONS Week '92, which is supported by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and runs from June 30 to July 4 at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, will combine two career fairs this year. The first, the London Graduate Recruitment Fair from June 30 to July 2, is organised by London University's careers advisory service. Here, new graduates can learn about job opportunities and postgraduate courses. With more than 100 exhibitors booked, a European pavilion will make an additional attraction.

The second, the Schools' Fair, on July 3 and 4, is for school-leavers going into higher education or employment and will provide career counselling covering degree choice, university and vocational training programmes.

Hotline: Schools' Fair 071-782 6872. London Graduate Recruitment Fair 0800 252183.

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### Education

#### Assistant Director Education (FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

RANGING FROM £42,200 - £46,000 PER ANNUM.

Applications are sought for this exciting new post with responsibility for managing the Lewisham Education budget overall and for managing and marketing financial services to education institutions in Lewisham.

Following a review by the Director of Finance of financial control and other financial services in Lewisham it is proposed to devolve from the Central Finance Department a range of finance functions to the Education Directorate. These include revenue estimates, financial monitoring and budgetary control, financial advice and accounting arrangements.

Significant changes to the finance function in education are implied by the change in responsibility and volume of work and a new structure for financial management has been agreed, which is included in the job and salary details. The successful applicant will head the new structure and develop financial management in Lewisham in line with Council policies and priorities and LMS legislation.

Further devolution is envisaged both from the Central Finance Department and from the Education Directorate to Schools.

The successful applicant will report to the Director of Education and be a member of the Education Directorate Management Team contributing to the development of the Directorate values and vision across the service. He/she will also be responsible to the Director of Finance for specific accounting matters including compliance with the Council's accounting standards, financial regulations and financial procedures manual and for ensuring a due regard to the Council's overall financial interests.

Substantial experience of financial service management of a strategic level is essential as is experience of successfully planning, monitoring and controlling large complex budgets. We are seeking a qualified accountant or someone with a similar level of expertise.

Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge of the legislative framework within which the education service operates, particularly in relation to LMS. This post is available on a 2 or 3 year fixed term contract, subject to negotiation with applicants.

For an application form and job details, please telephone: 081-690 4348. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 16th April 1992.

#### Equal Opportunities

Applications are welcome from all people regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age or religion. We expect all our employees to have an understanding of and commitment to our equal opportunities policies.

**Lewisham Education**

### Public Health Laboratory Service

#### DIRECTOR OF THE SERVICE

The PHLS Board will be appointing a Director to succeed Sir Joseph Smith, MD FRCP FRCPATH FPPHM when he retires from the post on a date to be arranged before the end of Summer 1993.

The Director is the Board's full time chief executive and has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of PHLS policies and activities.

Those with relevant qualifications and experience who are interested in the post or require further particulars should write as soon as possible, and in confidence, to the Chairman of the Board, Dr Malcolm Godfrey, PHLS Headquarters, 61 Colindale Avenue, London, NW9 5DF.



### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON



#### London Zoo Chief Executive.

The Zoological Society of London, which runs zoos at Regent's Park and Whipsnade and the Institute of Zoology, is seeking a Chief Executive for London Zoo. The Zoo is at an exciting stage of its long history and offers a challenging opportunity for the right candidate. The Zoo has wide responsibilities in animal conservation, husbandry and welfare, breeding endangered species and the advancement and dissemination of zoological knowledge.

Applicants should have a proven record of management at a senior level and first class administrative experience. Leadership ability will be essential and a broad and practical knowledge of visitor orientated management is desirable.

Please reply with a full CV, the names of three referees and current salary to Sir Barry Cross CBE FRS, The Secretary, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, by 16 April 1992.



#### Administration Manager

The Biochemical Society wishes to appoint an Administration Manager based at its London office. The post will involve the servicing of the Society's governing Executive Committee and Council and relative administrative and executive functions including the office management of the London premises. The successful candidate is likely to have some experience in a committee based structure and be able to demonstrate sound organisational skills.

The Administration Manager reports directly to the Society's chief executive and, after a period of assimilation, will be expected to work under minimum supervision. Salary will be negotiable dependent on qualifications and experience but in any event will not be less than £17,000. An extremely attractive Pension and Health Insurance Scheme is available.

Further details can be obtained from Glyn D. Jones, Executive Secretary, The Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London, W1N 3AJ. Telephone 071-580 5330 Fax 071-323 1136. Letters of application, which should be accompanied by full career details, should be received by 1st April 1992.

#### DIRECTOR - MIDDLE EAST STUDENT AFFAIRS

Leading college in London requires a person with knowledge of the American Educational System to take responsibility for recruitment and retaining of students from the Middle East. Fluency in Arabic, English and French is essential. The person appointed will be expected to counsel new and prospective students as regards educational programmes and deal with administration that the post will generate. Remuneration will be based on the experience and quality of the chosen applicant.

Please send your C.V. to  
PO Box No. 7965

#### ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL WINDSOR CASTLE SURVEYOR OF THE FABRIC

The Dean and Chapter of Windsor seek to appoint a Surveyor of the Fabric for St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. Applicants should be qualified architects with experience of the care and conservation of ancient buildings.

Details of the post may be obtained from: The Chapter Clerk, The Chapter Office, The Chapter, Windsor Castle, Berkshire SL4 1NQ to whom letters of application with c.v. and the names of three referees should be sent by 1 May, 1992.

#### THE TIMES

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#### OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE SCHOOLS EXAMINATION BOARD

Appointment of Assistant to the Secretaries (Oxford Office)

Applications are invited for the post of Assistant to the Secretaries in the Oxford office of the Board, which is a partner in the Student Examinations Group. Duties will primarily be concerned with the administration of the Board's A/AS examinations, in English and at least two of the following areas: Classics, History, Economics, Politics, Religious Studies, to be chosen according to the subject expertise of the successful applicant, as well as committee work and general examination and office administration. Applicants should hold a university degree and should have teaching, examining and/or administrative experience. The appointment at this stage will be for three years, with possibility of extension. Salary will be in accordance with Grade 2 of the University of Oxford scales for academic-related staff (£14,936 - £21,676), depending on age and experience. The successful applicant will be required to begin duty on 1 September 1992. Letters of application (no formal curriculum vitae (including present salary) and names and addresses of two referees should be sent by 8 April 1992 to The Secretary, Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, Elfield Way, Oxford, OX2 8EP. Further particulars are available from the same address (a.k.a. please). Enquiries should be marked 'Confidential Secretary'.

The Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board is an equal opportunities employer.

#### THE PARNHAM TRUST

##### DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Trees are the world's only source of renewable structural material. Timber is responsible for half of Britain's trade deficit. Yet every year almost half our timber crop is pulped, burned or left to rot. At Hooke Park College, in West Dorset, The Parnham Trust is training a new generation of entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing businesses which use this neglected material.

An educational charity under the direction of John Makepeace, The Parnham Trust seeks a highly motivated individual to raise funds to enable the Trust to develop its facilities at Hooke Park. The successful applicant will have a proven track record in charity fund-raising and excellent communication skills. Computer and/or keyboard skills, and a commitment to the ethos and aims of The Parnham Trust, are essential.

Applications with full CV by 17 April to: The Secretary, The Parnham Trust, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3NA.

#### THE PARNHAM TRUST

#### South Downs Health

MANAGER  
CHAILEY HERITAGE/DISABLEMENT SERVICES CENTRE  
Salary: £23,940pa  
Ref: 0584

An exciting opportunity exists for an ambitious person to manage services for children and adults with a physical disability. Chaley Heritage offers a wide range of medical services for children referred from all over the UK and some from abroad, as well as flexible care services for children attending Chaley Heritage School. It is a complex service requiring a manager to have good communication skills, an ability to lead a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals and will require liaison with Education and Social Services. As a Contracted Manager, the postholder must be a registered and possess a good understanding of contracting issues.

The Disablement Services Centre, based in Brighton, has contracts with six districts providing artificial limb services and a local wheelchair service. The Centre has a site manager, who is responsible for the operational issues, while the postholder oversees operational issues and co-ordinates strategic planning.

For an informal discussion contact: David Thompson on 082-572 2112 ext 308.

Job description form from: The Personnel Department, South Downs Health Trust, 14 Wellington Road, Brighton BN2 3AA. Tel: 0273 893800 ext 3776 (answerphone during office hours). Closing date for applications: Wednesday, April 15, 1992. Interviews will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 1992.

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## MOTOR SPORT

# British flair stays in pole position

About 90 per cent of the 900 or so racing cars built each year carry the Made in Britain tag. Motor sport engineering is one of the UK's unsung export earners, bringing in £600 million annually. According to the Association of Competition Car Manufacturers, the industry exports more than two-thirds of production to 30 countries across Europe, North America and the Far East.

Most people recognise, through such high-profile names as Nigel Mansell, that Britain is involved in international motor sport, but few have any inkling of the British domination of the racing industry. Yet this extends to Formula One, rallying, saloon car racing or Formula 3000.

More surprisingly, virtually all this industry — a web of small, technologically advanced workshops — is located within a 50-mile radius of mid-Oxfordshire and the Silverstone race track in Northamptonshire.

Reynard Racing, based at Bicester, Oxfordshire, builds some 250 racing cars a year and in 1990 won the Queen's Award for export achievement. To this motor sport capital of the UK flock giants such as Nissan, Subaru, Mercedes, Chevrolet and Mitsubishi, all of them looking for engines, chassis, suspensions and electronic engine management systems.

Even the quintessentially American Indianapolis 500

When the top drivers get into their cars, they rely for their safety and performance on the expertise of a small group of craftsmen working in Britain.

Vaughan Freeman reports

is dominated by British-built machines and components. In 1984, for example, 30 of the 33 cars in the Indy 500 were built by March Cars, near Heathrow airport, and the year's 14 top finishers used March chassis.

Jonathan Ashman, the RAC's motor sport events and marketing director, says that American purchases contribute significantly to the income of the UK motor sport industry. "Virtually all the American Indy 500 racing cars use British chassis. And while the engines in those cars might have Chevrolet stamped on them, they are built by Cosworth in the UK."

Most of the big rally teams are based in Britain, and much of the technology originates here. "You have Mitsubishi in Rugby, Nissan's race team in Milton Keynes, Subaru in Banbury. The British X-Trac operation builds 75 per cent of the world championship rallying transmissions and we also lead the world with electronic engine management."

As well as the vastly successful Lola operation, Grand Prix teams such as Benetton, Williams and Brabham are also based in Oxfordshire.

One reason why this huge industry has such a low profile is that its clients cherish confidentiality, so much of its work is highly secret. The only people who need to know already know.

But without publicity, how did the industry develop such a large market share? Since it began in 1982, Reynard's turnover has risen from £250,000 to £10 million, and its staff has grown sevenfold. Rick Gorne, the managing director of Reynard, says: "I think it goes back to the early 1950s when you had Cooper, Lotus, Vanwall, people like that, who were small race car constructors operating as cottage industries."

By setting up shop in striking distance of the big Midlands car manufacturers, the specialist racing teams had an instant supply of skilled workers as well as an infrastructure of independent ma-

chining shops able to design, build and fit one-off parts at short notice.

While motor sport industries abroad became increasingly centralised, the loose alliance of the British cottage industry system made it both more flexible and creative. Prodrive builds rally-winning cars for Subaru and racing saloons for BMW. Managing director David Richards says: "Germany and Japan have gone into mass production while we have retained the advantages of innovation and flexibility that a small outfit can bring."

While the German or Japanese are good at volume production, they are less able to produce a small number of vehicles in a short time. Speed is all-important in a business where teams have just a few weeks to implement improvements to a car between races.

"Bigger companies have to concentrate on their scales of mass production," Mr Richards says. "We can fill niches for them, providing short-run products."

In the time that the Germans or Japanese are in a committee meeting, he says, the British will have produced and tested several versions of a component. "The British have retained that creative facility and are not afraid of trial and error," he says.

Perhaps because of this, employees are very committed. "Working for March Cars is a dream come true for me," says Mark Sheldon, an accountant. "I am definitely



Nigel Mansell is the public face of British motor-sport expertise, one of the UK's great unsung export earners

here for the motor racing rather than for the accountancy."

Such commitment and interest have stood the British industry in good stead — for now.

But can it retain its pole position in motor sport technology? Reynard Racing has developed a philosophy of only entering racing arenas when it is sure of winning. Its first FF2000 car won first time out at Brands Hatch in 1983, as did its first

Formula Three at Silverstone in 1985 and its Formula 3000 car in 1988.

The company is aiming to enter Formula One, but will hold off until it is confident it has another winner on its hands.

The advanced technologies involved in modern-day motor sport mean other areas are opening up, too. Carbon-fibre composites, used in motor sport for their lightness and strength, also have applications in defence and aerospace.

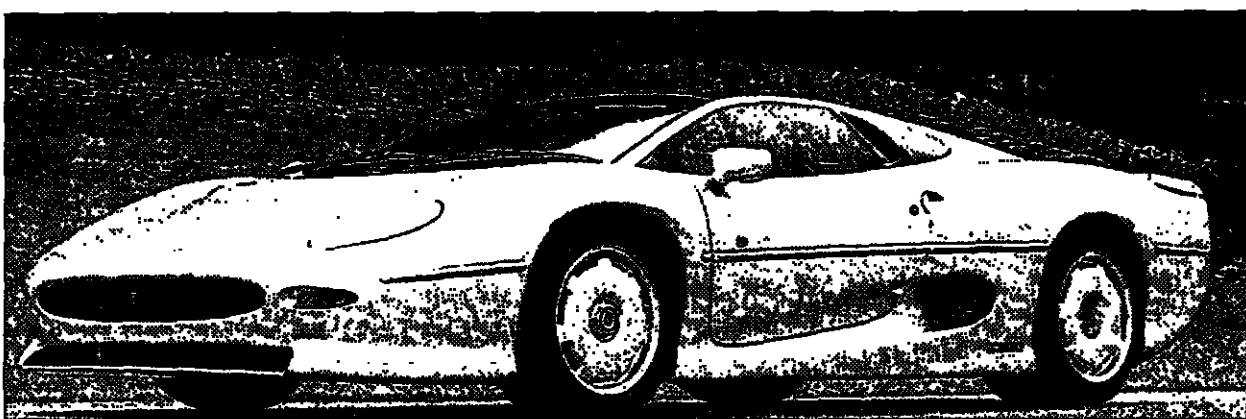
Mr Richards says: "We are

looking ahead to developing a mainstream engineering development area. We have always applied ourselves to getting cars on track, on time, competitive and on budget, and this can be applied to a mainstream manufacturing concern."

Jonathan Ashman, of the RAC, says the British lead will be maintained as corporations turn away from advertising and towards sponsorship. An American conference on sponsorship revealed dissatisfaction with huge advertising budgets.

"They are realising that for less money they can get more exposure through sponsorship," he says. That should mean more sponsorship for winning motor sport cars, the majesty of which come from Britain.

Mr Richards says: "In the past many people have tried to challenge us at motor sport. So far there is no other nation that appears to be a big threat to us and I can't see anyone coming up in the future who could realistically challenge the British position."



Long, low and lightning-fast: the Jaguar XJ220 combines elements of saloon car comfort and racing performance

## The big cat's new cub

Next month, Jaguar will unveil its fastest-ever production car, at the same time as it ends its association with racing.

The first examples of the Jaguar XJ220 are soon to be completed for delivery to 350 customers able to afford the £350,000 asking price. Long, low and aerodynamically sleek, the XJ220 is the ultimate motoring machine, bred from decades of Jaguar race experience and honed by the skills of engineers who move easily in the heady world of sports car championships and Formula One.

But financial losses, compounded by uncertainty over the future of the Group C sports car championships which Jaguar has dominated for the past four years, have ended its ambitions on the track for the time being. According to industry estimates, the Group C team cost about £20 million a year to run, and even generous sponsorship was unable to counter-balance such high costs.

When TWR, which ran the racing outfit, decided to concentrate on the Benetton Formula One team, Jaguar's decision to pull out was confirmed. The company will, however, still have cars running in the American IMSA series this year.

The loss of the familiar dark green and purple Big Cats, as they have become known around the world, will sadden enthusiasts.

Yet Jaguar's involvement with racing, although successful enough to root the name deep in racing history, has been surprisingly sporadic over the years.

Sir William Lyons developed the company principally as a manufacturer of saloon cars, but soon realised there was fame to be won on the track. Although the saloon bore little relation to the sports car, he knew that famous racing names attracted custom.

The first victory on the race track for Jaguar came in 1951 at Le Mans, the French track which has provided racing with some of its most exotic characters and cars, and was followed by five more victories with C and D-type Jaguars by the end of the decade.

In the 1960s, unfavourable

As Jaguar pulls out of racing, where spectacular success proved too costly, it unveils a dream machine

economic conditions and the growth of Formula One forced Jaguar to take a back seat. Then, in the early 1980s, Tom Walkinshaw of TWR convinced Sir John Egan, then Jaguar's chairman, that success on the track would revive the company's stale image.

After a debt-ridden start to the 1980s, when it almost went out of business, Jaguar had been privatised and started to make big profits. What it needed to complete its revival was a high-profile success.

This was elusive at first, but, in 1987, the efforts of TWR and Jaguar were rewarded with a world championship in the Group C sports car class, previously dominated by Porsche.

A year later, the company had its first win in the Le Mans 24-hour race since the 1950s. In four years, there were three world championships and two Le Mans victories. Last year's running of the world's most famous endurance race saw Jaguars in second, third and fourth places. This was despite competition from mighty Mercedes, Porsche, Nissan, Mazda and Peugeot.

Meanwhile, engineers and designers at Jaguar were working to produce a car which would capture the imagination and raise the company's whole profile.

The XJ220 was to be the fastest and most expensive car in existence. First an-

nounced in 1988, it stole the headlines at the British Motor Show. But since those optimistic days when profits topped £120 million, things have changed. Jaguar is now owned by Ford in the United States and its fortunes have slumped so far that financial losses in 1991 were £160 million.

The XJ220, designed and engineered by the JaguarSport subsidiary, has also changed substantially: it is shorter and lighter than the 1988 prototype yet just as sleek, shaped like a dart with wheels. It forms a bridge between Jaguar's racing heritage and its development of mass production saloons.

Despite being given a brief to produce probably the most exotic British sports car ever made, the engineering team have come up with a true road-going model, albeit one capable of firing from standstill to 60mph in under four seconds and going on to a maximum speed of 212 mph.

The interior is the traditional all-leather, wrap-around cabin that buyers would expect of a Jaguar. The bodywork, however, is beautifully futuristic. Under the aluminium skin is a rigid frame of a honeycombed aluminium structure offering strength only available in Formula One race cars or aircraft.

Crash tests at the Motor Industry Research Associ-

ation laboratories, firing the car into a brick wall, showed just how strong the car is. The nose absorbed all the shock through a series of longitudinally-placed bars, slightly indented so that they crumpled predictably on impact. Both the headlamps and the wind-screen survived intact, and both the doors opened easily. The steering wheel also barely moved, always a crucial factor in driver survival.

Clever ideas, such as the indented absorption bars, could be used in future models mass-produced at Jaguar's Browns Lane factory in Coventry. Driver and passenger are also surrounded by a steel roll cage which can withstand 1.5 times the car's weight of almost 1.7 tonnes. Engineers simply stopped trying to break the car when they reached ten tonnes of pressure on the roof.

If the car's construction could help saloon production, then the engine is of racing stock. The meaty 3.5-litre V6 has twin turbochargers and delivers 542 brake horse power at 7,000rpm — roughly five times the power of a conventional family saloon.

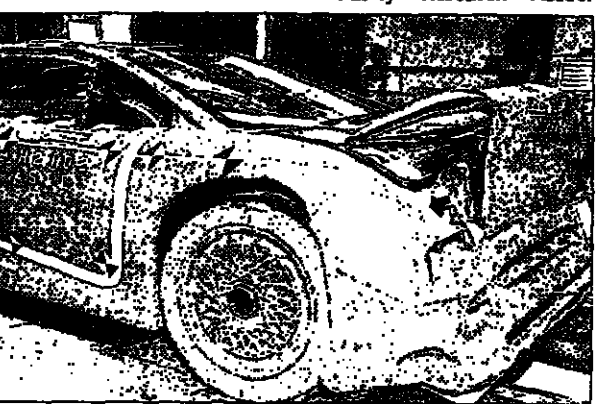
On a race track, the XJ220 will go from a standing start up to 100mph in eight seconds, the time it would take some of the quickest GTI cars on the road to reach 60mph. Under that sort of acceleration, the car must be stable, underlining the role of the aerodynamic body.

When John Nielsen, the 1990 Jaguar Le Mans winner, test-drove the XJ220 at its maximum speeds, the car managed airflow with its low drag and rear aerofoil, while two race-derived Venturi tunnels, which exert 600lbs of downforce on the car, increased its roadholding.

The result is a remarkable combination of race engineering for an exotic road-going car: one capable of tearing up the tarmac of a race track or trundling along to the shops.

The XJ220 is also Jaguar's antidote to the bleak years of recession which have tarnished a once notable image. Perhaps the XJ220 will signal the return of the Big Cats.

KEVIN EASON



Putting safety first: the XJ220 after being crash-tested

Scandinavian drivers will have to look to their laurels in the top events

## Locals heed rallying call

For four days in mid-November, often in atrocious weather, one of Britain's most popular spectator sports takes place in some of the country's most inaccessible regions. The Lombard RAC Rally now attracts more than two million enthusiasts, a far cry from its early days.

The first official winner, in 1932, was a Colonel A.H. Loughborough, as a result of his performance in a slow driving test on Hastings promenade. The colonel was not even behind the steering wheel, the car being driven by his chauffeur.

The rally was predominantly run on public roads and decided by navigation and timekeeping tests until 1960, when Jack Kemley, the clerk of the course, introduced a special stage, run against the clock on forest tracks. The format was an immediate success, particularly for the Swedish drivers Eric Carlsson and Tom Thors, who dominated the event for five years before the "flying Finns" Rauno Aaltonen, Timo Makinen and Hannu Mikkola became the drivers to beat.

Today, although the cars have become far more technically sophisticated, the rally still offers a similar chance to see cars that look akin to everyday models being driven at amazing speeds down the sort of rutted gravel tracks which would prevent most



Best of British: Louise Aitken Walker and Colin McRae



ordinary drivers ever getting out of second gear.

The leading cars on the event are of course very different under the skin from the road-going vehicles, requiring a back-up team of up to 50 mechanics, capable of descending on a stricken car in a remote location and replacing major components such as gearboxes in a matter of minutes. It is the sheer cost of maintaining such an operation that has prevented a British driver winning the event since the last all-British victory was claimed by Roger Clark and Tony Mason in a Ford Escort in 1976.

It has certainly had nothing to do with any lack of British driving talent. During the 1980s Russell Brookes, Jimmy McRae, Tony Pond, David Llewellyn and Malcolm Wilson all proved to be blindingly fast in

national events and have each come tantalisingly close to victory on the Lombard RAC, only to be frustrated by either mechanical failure or unsuitable machinery. Last year's event, however, demonstrated the sort of performance which can be expected when the right cars and British drivers are combined.

Colin McRae, aged 23, had already become the youngest British Open rally champion at the wheel of his Subaru Legacy, after winning five of Britain's top national events. The question last November was whether he would be able to improve on his father Jimmy's best RAC Rally result, a third place in the 1987 event. The answer was no, but he took the rallying world by storm, snatching the lead from the world champions,

Juha Karikkunen and Carlos Sainz, on the second day.

There was to be no fairytale ending — McRae slid off the track and out of contention with one day remaining — but he had made an emphatic point, and with the security of a three-year contract with the British-based Subaru team he is now able to develop his driving style without the commercial pressures suffered by many of his predecessors.

Another British driver who has proved more than capable of matching the overseas stars is Louise Aitken Walker. Until last year's rally, she had never been able to compete on equal terms with the biggest names in the sport, driving less-powerful two-wheel drive cars rather than the turbo-charged, four-wheel driven machinery of the opposition. In 1990, she and her co-driver Christina Thorne survived when their Vauxhall Astra plunged over a cliff and into a lake on the Portuguese Rally, but she returned to win her class in that year's Lombard RAC.

STEPHEN SLATER

## Fast times in the nursery

Several world champions cut their racing teeth in Formula Ford

FORMULA Ford 1600, the most successful training class in the history of motor racing, is 25 years old in July and still going strong.

Nigel Mansell cut his teeth in Formula Ford, as did Emerson Fittipaldi, the Formula One world champion in 1972 and 1974, James Hunt (1976), Jody Scheckter (1979) and Ayrton Senna (1988, 1990 and 1991).

Like so many good things, the basis of Formula Ford is stunningly simple. John Tomlinson of Motor Racing Stables (the Brands Hatch-based racing school) hit upon the idea while seeking more modern cars in which to teach his students.

Things do not come more basic than a tubular spaceframe chassis, powered by a Ford Cortina engine mated with a VW Beetle-derived gearbox and running road-pattern tyres, but that was it in a nutshell. It was cheap, fun, and the man in



Stars of tomorrow: Formula Ford tests skills to the utmost

the street could aspire to racing what looked to the uninitiated like a miniature Formula One car.

Established manufacturers built new cars, others sprang up overnight and enterprising individuals even built their own chassis to meet the rules as the gospel spread.

More than 160 marques are known to exist in a formula which flourishes on four continents, from California to Australia, and Scandinavia to Venezuela.

None is more successful than Norfolk-based Van Die-men, run by Fittipaldi's former mechanic Ralph Firman. This company has built more than 2,000 cars

since its inception in 1973.

Today's cars are much more sophisticated than the early machines. They cost a lot more, for a start — £15,000, rather than the £1,000 or so of the early models — are stiffer, lower and leaner, and positively bristle with technical innovation.

Learning car control is absolutely fundamental to a young driver's craft. Formula Ford cars are not allowed wings to augment downforce, so the reflexes required to hold one "flat out" are quickly developed.

Racing is invariably close and exciting, and the ostensibly equal specification of the

cars, engines and tyres spotlight driver ability a mile off.

With a dozen championships of international, national and regional status for Formula Ford competitors in the British Isles this year (some catering specifically for older cars), FF1600 is thriving. From its top professional level (which requires running costs of £50,000 a year) to the new "pocket money" historic class for pre-1971 machines, Formula Ford offers something for everybody with a yearning to race single seaters.

Formula Ford has its own world championship at the end of each season: the Festival, begun in 1972. Eight of its winners have graduated to Formula One, including Johnny Herbert, who won the Festival in 1985 and is now having a fine time with Lotus. Do not doubt Formula Ford's contribution next time you study the awesome talent of Senna or Mansell from trackside or television. Or, better still, go and see the stars of tomorrow in action at Brands Hatch, when Formula Ford celebrates in Silver Jubilee on July 17.

MARCUS PYE

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# Driving a bargain hard

Manufacturers and sponsors pour millions into top-flight racing, in the hopes of making millions more.

Vaughan Freeman reports

**C**ar manufacturers spend millions of pounds on motor sport — and they don't do it for fun. Technological developments derived from building cars that can reach 200 mph and more do bring advantages to the average motorist. Disc brakes, four-wheel drive, better fuel efficiency and safer cars are some of the benefits brought about by racing and rallying.

However, just as one wonders if we needed men on the Moon in order to develop non-stick saucepans, one also wonders if motor manufacturers could not have developed such advances more cheaply.

The costs are fearsome. Formula One cars are lucky to get a couple of miles from each £270 gallon of fuel they use. Ayrton Senna is reputed to earn \$15 million a season while Nigel Mansell earns a reputed \$10 million. A top Formula One team will spend \$50 million in a 16-race season.

Rallying and saloon car racing are also expensive, and

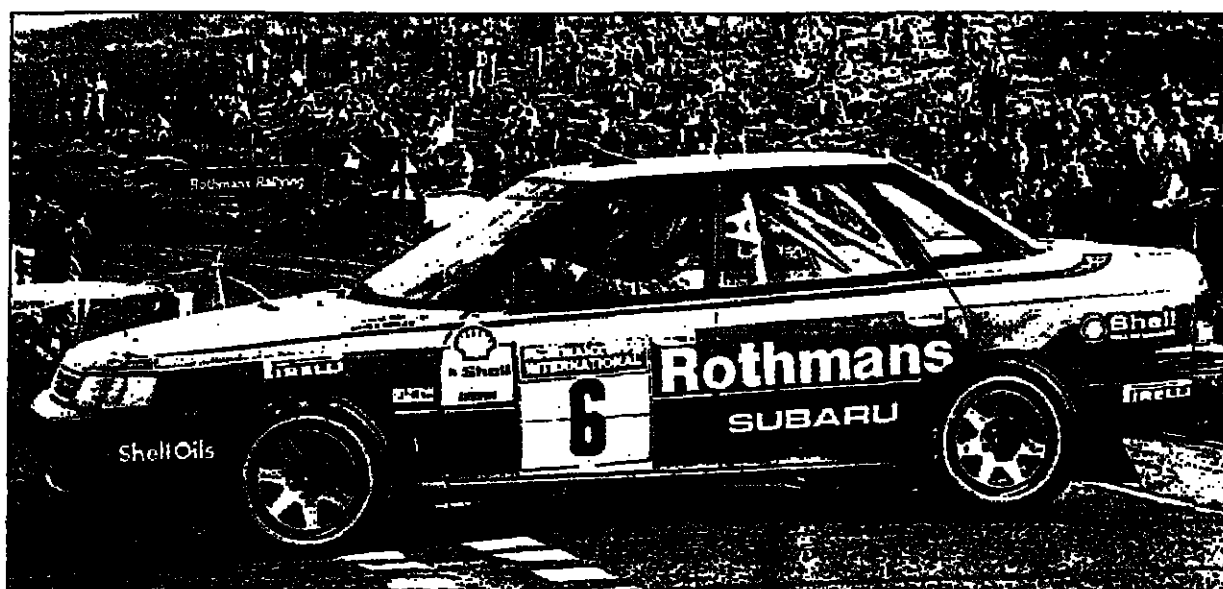
the real reason for spending so much trying to win at Le Mans, Silverstone or the Kielder Forest is sales.

Ford sells more cars in the UK than any other manufacturer and takes great pains to know its market. To that end Ford commissioned a survey by MIL Research to see how much impact motor sport has.

MIL polled 400 men aged from 18 to 54 who had recently bought a new car, and found they were more likely to be interested in motor sport than any other except football.

Interestingly, of those questioned, 39 per cent thought rallying brought more benefit to the ordinary motorist, 27 per cent thought touring car races more beneficial, while only 12 per cent thought Formula One benefited the ordinary motorist.

Rallying is also one of the quickest ways for motor manufacturers to create, improve or alter a public perception — witness Audi's transformation in public eyes when its quattros swept all before



Off-road, and into the showrooms: for the Subaru Legacy RS rallying is both an engineering and a marketing operation

them in rallying. Now Subaru is ploughing money into rallying in an effort to raise their profile and create the image of a ruggedly reliable but fast range of cars.

The racing development work done on the basic Japanese Subaru cars to turn them into competitive rallying machines is being done by Prodrive in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

David Richards, the managing director of Prodrive, says Subaru and other manufacturers are clear about their

sporting effort. "It is a marketing exercise more than an engineering exercise."

"For instance, we are working on an automatic gearbox to be run later this year. Most people under 30 would never consider an automatic box, thinking it only suitable for motorists who want to poodle around. If people see a winning automatic gearbox in rallying they are far more likely to buy it."

"We have been asked to change the image of Subaru and through motor sport they

can do that far faster than a TV or newspaper campaign. Motor sport is believable and people relate to it."

**A**cing on this perception, manufacturers are turning to saloon and touring car racing where cars look vaguely like the vehicles they build for the road.

After Mazda became the first Japanese manufacturer to win the Le Mans 24-hour race, last year, it had special edition sports cars for sale

within months, painted in the peculiar quarter-checked livery of the winning race car.

The philosophy of beating showroom rivals on the track translates into a flurry of advertising using the racing victory as a sales point. The saloon-car teams of manufacturers such as BMW, Porsche and Audi rely on the "trickle down" or "halo" effect. This means that however exotic their race-winning cars are, the glamour surrounding their victories reflects on their volume-produced vehicles.



Still the car to beat: the Lancia Delta HF Integrale

## The Italian work-horse

Looks aren't everything, as the boxy Lancia Delta has proved with a string of international rally triumphs

**T**he Italians have a way of producing motorizing classics. No collection of pedigree cars would be complete without a line-up of scarlet Ferraris or rakish Alfa Romeos, but the nation's most successful competition car ever is actually a small, rather boxy, five-door saloon, which despite its humble appearance can claim nine world championship crowns.

Even more amazing is the fact that the Lancia Delta has been on the road for almost 13 years, yet is still the car to beat in international rallying despite challenges from the high-tech, high-spec cars of Japan. Juha Kankkunen of Finland proved the point by claiming both victory and the World Drivers' Championship title in last year's Lombard RAC Rally, adding a record-setting fifth successive world manufacturer's title for the Italian marque.

The rules covering the World Rally Championship stipulate that cars be derived from production models, but the latest Lancia Delta Integrale is a very different car from the 1300cc, front-wheel drive hatchback that won the 1980 European Car of the Year award.

The original's 75-horsepower output is now dwarfed by the latest rally car's 300-bhp turbocharged 2-litre engine, while four-wheel drive and tyres up to nine inches wide ensure the ultimate in traction.

The reason for this is a complex system by which manufacturers ensure that their cars have the requisite "extras" to keep ahead of their rivals in performance, while still keeping to the rule that requires a minimum of 5,000 cars of the particular model to be built.

In fact, the Lancia Delta was already nine years old in

1986 when the initial modifications were instituted to make it a rally winner. Taking the existing Delta saloon, the Lancia engineers fitted a turbocharged 2-litre engine and four-wheel drive to create the Delta HF 4WD, which would form the basis of their new rally car.

Next came the challenge of building 5,000 production models before the first rally of 1987, the Monte Carlo in January. In fact, the 5,000 cars were only actually completed after the rally, but by then the Delta had scored a debut victory.

**A**lthough the Delta HF 4WD won nine world championship rallies in its opening season, Lancia did not stop development work. To stay ahead of potential challenges from Mazda and Toyota during 1988 a new model was produced, the Delta Integrale, which used the same basic layout but offered more suspension movement under blistered wheel arches and better engine cooling.

Another "evolution" of the Integrale appeared late in 1989, this time with a 16-valve engine to boost power output. Again it scored a debut victory.

The final success for this model was Kankkunen's Lombard RAC Rally victory, because in January a fourth and probably final evolution of the design appeared. It too sports more power and even wider wheel arches to house a more sophisticated suspension system.

The Portuguese Rally at the beginning of this month saw Lancia's 45th world championship victory, and a new Delta is likely to be released to the public later this year.

STEPHEN SLATER

## Masters of the mean machine

Three of racing's most powerful engines come from neighbouring UK factories

**T**HERE is probably a patch of Northamptonshire where, on a still day, it is possible to hear the bark of three of the most powerful car engines ever to come out of Britain as they are tested in three separate factories.

Cosworth, Judd and Ilmor, whose engines power more than half of the cars that make up the Grand Prix grids as well as the cars on the Indianapolis circuit in America, are all based in the area. Cosworth is made in Northampton and nearby Wellingborough. Judd just across the Northamptonshire county boundary in Rugby and Ilmor in the tiny village of Brixworth.

This concentration of power in such a small area is largely coincidental, although the proximity of the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit, with its fast, sweeping bends and testing facilities, plays a supporting role.

The dominance of the UK racing engine industry and its importance as an export earner were demonstrated at last year's Indianapolis 500, which attracted 350,000 spectators and a worldwide television audience. The V8 turbocharged engine of last year's winning Penske carried Chevrolet's name, but was designed and built by Ilmor in Brixworth. The next five cars home were also Ilmor-powered.

During the 1980s, Cosworth engines were the masters of Indy car racing. When the Indy 500 victor

flashes across the line in May this year its engine will almost certainly have "Made in Northamptonshire" stamped on it, although the camshaft covers will bear either the Chevrolet or Ford logos.

Ilmor, founded by Mario Illen and Paul Morgan, two former and respected Cosworth engineers, will again be providing developments of their alcohol-fuelled engines — each producing in excess of 720 horsepower — for the Chevrolet-supported teams. Cosworth has a new engine, the Ford-Cosworth XB, which it hopes will re-establish the marque as the frontrunner of the Indy race and the Indy-CART series of races throughout America.

DR PETER Nevitt, the executive chairman of Cosworth, says: "The XB will be the most technically advanced engine in Indy-CART: smaller, lighter and more powerful than its rivals."

Cars with Cosworth engines first entered Indy-CART racing in 1975, and have won 153 races and 10 championships, a feat which no other engine-maker has come close to equalling.

The technological advances amassed by the engine builders do, however, quickly filter through to the road car. Modern multi-valve engines are clean and powerful because of the lessons learnt on the race track.

DAVID YOUNG



Now you can actually buy a Carlos Sainz Celica GT-Four.



(Comforting to know it's been thoroughly tested).

Tried and tested on the toughest terrains on Earth, the Celica GT-Four has never been found wanting. (Although it's often been the car that other drivers have found themselves wanting.)

Right now, we're releasing just 440 Limited Edition versions of the model that will power Carlos Sainz to many a famous victory in 1992.

Which means that the world's

Standard Equipment	Carlos Sainz Limited Edition Celica GT-Four
205 bhp 2.0 litre multi-valve Turbo engine	✓
ABS	✓
Electric sunroof/tilt slide	✓
Electric mirrors	✓
RDS stereo radio/cassette	✓
Central locking	✓
Power steering	✓
Electric windows	✓
Electric aerial	✓
Alloy wheels	✓
Four wheel drive	✓
Air conditioning	✓
Ltd slip diff	✓
3 yr warranty	✓

most admired rally car is now available — briefly — through your Toyota dealer.

He'll happily offer you a test drive. (Notwithstanding that Carlos has put it through its paces pretty comprehensively already).

Visit your dealer now, or phone 0420 22607.

**TOYOTA**

TSB



# New on the beaten track

GUY DRAYTON

Advanced driving schools teach a harder lesson than expected, Kevin Eason says

**B**lasting around a race track can be the most exhilarating feeling on four wheels. It can also be the most sobering.

Any bar-room conversation that revolves around cars and driving throws up no surprises. Everyone is a good driver, and it was always the other driver's fault.

Driving is one activity at which everyone is an expert. Most of us drive, some of us tens of thousands of miles a year, perhaps without an accident and secure in cars, big or small, capable of breaking the motorway speed limit quite easily. Surely that makes us an expert on the subject? We drive, therefore we know all there is to know.

Mick Linford has met drivers like that before. He also talks to them shortly after they have tried some of the high-performance driving courses he runs for the John Watson Performance Driving Centre at Silverstone, Britain's premier race track.

What he discovers is usually men and women chastened by their discovery that driving is not as easy as they thought it was.

Yes, they can make a car go backwards and forwards and often at high speed, but few can control a car suddenly aquaplaning through deep water, nor can they cope when it develops a frightening skid with the rear wheels yawing out of control.

High-performance driving schools are one of the fastest-growing leisure activities in the country, almost immune from the recession as both companies and private drivers discover the worth of developing their road skills.

Drivers who enrol for a day's driving probably set off in anticipation of showing their Nigel Mansell-like ability, tearing around a track at breakneck speeds. What they



Discipline and skill: John Watson applies his expertise to teaching good driving techniques at his high-performance Silverstone centre

discover is that all driving requires a high degree of discipline and skills. At the John Watson centre, drivers can try their hand at a variety of driving adventures, from go-karting to rallying, single-seater racing in Formula Ford cars or simply advanced driving techniques. The emphasis is always on safety and skill.

John Watson, one of Britain's best racing drivers of the last 20 years, opened his performance driving centre three years ago determined that he would carry over the same sort of excellence in car care and motoring standards he found in Formula One racing, the pinnacle of any driving career.

More than 10,500 drivers, aged from 18 to 80, went through the centre last year. They varied in type from the budding race driver to the portly company chairman whose most strenuous in-car activity is normally to change the tape in the stereo player.

Tricia Watson, no relation to John, but the company's corporate sales executive, says: "There is a huge variety in the types of people who

come here. A large number of places are booked by wives or girlfriends for their husbands or boyfriends. The men turn up shrugging their shoulders, thinking it is all going to be easy. They discover that is not the case."

For track days, a single seater 1.6-litre Formula Ford with about 100 brake horse power or a 130bhp race-tuned Peugeot 205 GTi are available.

Tuition, however, starts in the classroom with strict lessons on safety and the physics of how a car moves, brakes and corners. After that, there are training circuits where students are often accompanied by instructors who have to be certain their charges can be unleashed on a circuit.

There have been no disasters to date, but many drivers have realised that the car can be a lethal weapon capable of getting beyond their control without the exercise of high skills.

But how does driving at high speed around a track help sharpen the instincts of an ordinary driver? Mr Linford, the centre manager, says: "Critics will say that we

just encourage people to drive fast and make them more dangerous.

"But our experience is entirely different. We find people become much more aware of how a car handles,

**High-performance driving schools are almost immune from the recession**

what it is capable of and how much better they can control it. They do not want to drive fast, but want to drive better, and that is a contribution to road safety."

Unfortunately the number of drivers being trained is insignificant, considering that there are more than 23 million licence holders in

Britain. About 4.5 million of those are company car drivers, among whom are drivers with some of the worst accident records.

Surveys show consistently that company car-users drive faster, are more careless and more likely to have accidents than private motorists who do little more than use their cars to go to work or to enjoy weekend outings. Yet companies go on paying out huge insurance premiums to cover their drivers' behaviour at the wheel.

At the Peter Gethin school at Goodwood, near Chichester, studies of drivers who have had training have revealed startling results.

IBM, the world's biggest computer company, checked on 150 of its drivers over a nine-month period. Of 31 accident claims, 23 were from untrained drivers and only eight from those who had advanced driver training. Where the driver was at fault, the average cost of a claim for a trained driver was £296; for the untrained £523.

Mr Gethin, one of the fastest-ever Grand Prix drivers, says: "Safety is a serious business, but having confidence in your driving and knowing that you are a safe driver can put a lot of enjoyment back into it."

Tricia Watson says that companies coming to her for advice admit to horrendous accident rates and then discover that driver training can save thousands of pounds in repairs and time for cars off the road.

"We find that company directors agree training is a good thing," she says, "but they then shake their heads at the £56 for a part session, saying it is too expensive. Realistically, that is the cost of one smashed light lens or a meal for two in a half-decent restaurant. Training is an investment, not a cost."

**Typical costs:** John Watson High Performance Driving Centre (telephone 01277-858268), skid lesson £56, advanced driving course £185, full rally course £190, racing instruction £80. Peter Gethin Driving Courses (0243-778118), half-day defensive driver training £125, performance and road safety course £420, skid control £33.50.

## Kart before horsepower

Each summer weekend, Britons of all ages enjoy racing across the country

THERE is a lot more to motor racing than just Formula One. On almost every weekend from now until November, the paddocks of each of Britain's 15 racing circuits will be occupied by competitors putting the final touches to a selection of machines ranging from tiny 60cc karts to 7-ton trucks capable of 100mph.

The competitive spirit even extends to cars as humble as Morris Minors and Citroën 2CVs.

The starting point for many an aspiring Nigel Mansell is undoubtedly karting, a sport that has come a long way from the motorcycle-engined "bedsteads" with which it began in the early 1960s. Today's machinery sports ultra-light tubular chassis, powered by high-performance two-stroke engines that can rev to 11,000rpm and beyond, but the skill of the driver is still paramount.

The fact that some of these race-hardened veterans are less than ten years old may come as something of a surprise, until you discover that Cadet karting, which was launched by the RAC MSA in 1986 for eight to ten-year-olds, has now attracted more than 500 drivers.

Fine-tuning is all that is allowed by the RAC's rules, which also prevent the smallest racers gaining a power-to-weight advantage by adding ballast to ensure that each kart and driver combination weighs a minimum of 90kg on the starting line.

Each driver's activity on the track is closely monitored by RAC officials, too, with safety being of paramount importance, but it does not prevent close, clean and frequently spectacular racing.

Both Nigel Mansell and Ayrton Senna learnt their initial skills in karting. A decade ago, top touring car racer Tim Harvey began his career in karts, and was only pipped at the post for London Kart Club honours by

Johnnie Herbert, the current Lotus Grand Prix driver.

The greatest contrast to the tiny Cadet Karts, at the other end of the motor sports scale, is truck racing. In 1984, when a group of truck drivers got together to run their first race meeting at Donington Park near Derby, they must have had little idea that their sport would boom into a European championship that attracts crowds equivalent to many Grands Prix.

The trucks are adapted from the articulated tractor units that ply the motorways. Today's racing trucks can develop as much as 1,500hp and are capable of out-accelerating most high-performance cars. The axiom that "racing improves the breed" is perhaps more true in truck than in car racing.

Being a spectator is one thing, but there is nothing like competing, and on some summer weekends more than 1,000 people are taking part in motor sports events around the country.

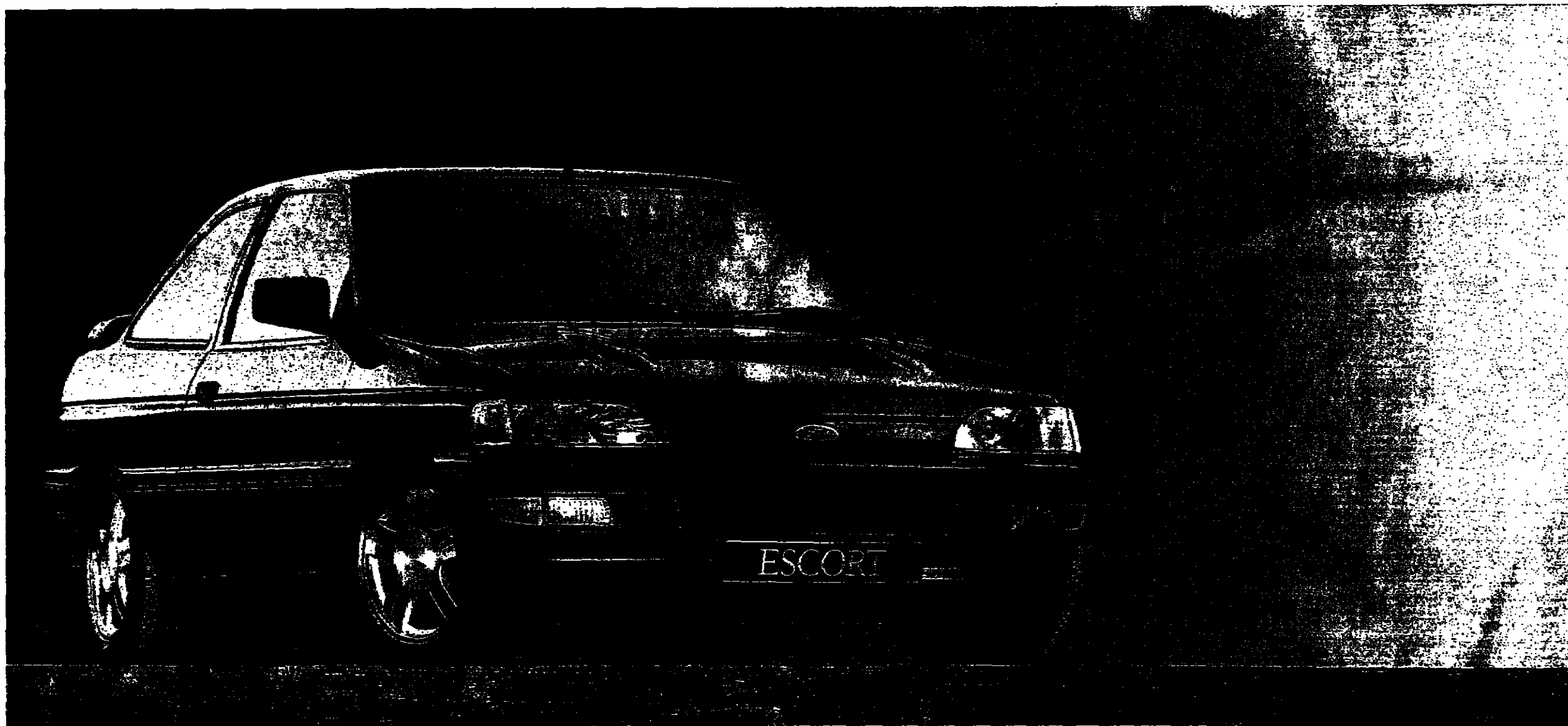
An even more unusual choice for a racing car must be the Citroën 2CV. Over the past three years a remarkable one-make championship for the "tin snails" has attracted capacity starting grids. The line-up for each race consists of about 30 2CVs, buzzing like hornets and leaning spectacularly in the corners.

The winning 2CV's average speed of 49mph was a little slower than Johnnie Herbert's average of more than 128mph at Le Mans, but out of the 39 starters, 35 finished the race, with the entrants covering a staggering 32,384 laps.

Somewhat surprisingly, though, the Citroëns do not travel to France for their annual 24-hour epic. Instead, they take to the track each June at Mondello Park near Dublin. After all, where better for a race of this nature than Ireland?

STEPHEN SLATER

# The Champ is back.



Remember the famous RS Escorts?

In the '70s they won so many rallies and races they became a legend in their own laptime.

Enter today's upholder of that proud heritage, the new Escort RS2000.

It's about to make the greatest comeback since Rocky, so naturally it's built to go the distance.

It has a new 2-litre DOHC 16-valve 150 PS engine, **The new Escort RS2000.**

accommodated by twin bonnet power bulges and cooled via a front spoiler air intake.

It has powerful, four beam headlights and integral front fog lamps to punch through the darkness.

It stands poised on polished alloy wheels with extra low profile tyres.

It has a highly tuned sports suspension, so you can expect handling of the highest order.

Autocar & Motor were so impressed they said "the

RS2000 feels taut and consistent, grips extremely well..."

It's also the first car to benefit from Ford's all synchromesh advanced 5-speed MTX 75 transmission. The result is a slicker, smoother gearchange.

Inside, the new RS2000 boasts equipment levels to match its performance.

ABS, power-steering, electric front windows, a Quickclear heated windscreen, a slide/tilt sunroof and central locking are all standard.

You'll also find a variable reach sports steering wheel and Recaro seats, with the driver's side adjustable for height and tilt.

To conclude, Autocar & Motor said of the RS2000 "as for the competition, they should be worried."

If you'd like to see the RS2000 in action contact your RS dealer. Ford's new champion is bound to prove a big hit.

**Everything we do is driven by you.**



Ask your Ford dealer about Ford's Price Protection Policy and Aftercare package which includes one year's free RAC membership, security glass etching and (subject to status) a free loan vehicle for a week should yours be stolen in the first year. For a catalogue or the address of your Ford dealer, please call the Ford Information Service free on 0800 01 01 12.







## BBC 1

- 6.00 CeeFax (93493) 6.30 Breakfast News (57243870)  
9.05 Election Call introduced by Jonathan Dimbleby. Norman Lamont answers viewers' and listeners' election questions. To participate ring 071-799 5000. With Radio 4 (1004967)  
10.00 News, regional news and weather (57243870) 10.05 Playdays (s) (8834702) 10.25 The Family News (r) (8341764) 10.35 Gibraltar. Celebrity word game hosted by Kenny Everett (s) (8894431)  
11.00 News, regional news and weather (4576431) 11.05 Help Yourself. Pam Rhodes learns how counselling can help people come to terms with the loss of loved ones (341257) 11.30 People Today (s) (9200870) Includes News, regional news and weather at 12.00  
12.20 Pebble Mill. Music and chat introduced by Judi Spiers (s) (2937899)  
12.55 Regional News and weather (5052783)  
1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (s) (33426603) 1.50 Turnabout. Word-puzzle testing quiz (25321239)  
2.15 Film: Escape To Burma (1955) starring Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Ryan and David Farrar. Far-fetched but diverting drama about a man on the run for murder who takes refuge on a plantation in Burma and starts an affair with the American woman owner. Directed by Allan Dwan (2415528)  
3.40 Cartoon. Hungry Wolf (4957967) 3.50 Joshua Jones Animation (5865035) 4.05 The New Yogi Berra Show (r) (4218344) 4.10 Jackson. Patricia Routledge with part two of *Lizie Dripping and the Witch* (s) (5469122) 4.25 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse. Cartoon (r) (4288832) 4.35 The Really Wild Roadshow. A visit to Bridgerton Wildlife Park. (CeeFax) (s) (9729798)  
5.00 Newsround (312706) 5.10 World News (s) (9729798) 5.15 Part Five of Tom Robinson's comedy serial (r). (CeeFax) (2163677)  
5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) (s) (312306) Northern Ireland: Election Forum 5.45 Inside Ulster  
6.00 Six O'Clock News. (CeeFax) Weather (685)  
6.30 Regional News Magazine (615). Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 Holiday. Sue Cook samples Spain's Tossa de Mar. And a look at the East Enders. (CeeFax) (s) (899)  
7.30 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (s) (899)  
8.00 Just Good Friends. John Sullivan's romantic comedy starring Paul Nicholas and Jan Francis (r). (CeeFax) (9306)  
8.30 A Question of Sport presented by David Coleman. This week: Bill Beaumont is joined by Gary Mabbutt and Mark Pittman; John Parrott's team is Jonathan Webb and Diane Edwards (1141)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News and Campaign Report with Martyn Lewis. (CeeFax) Regional News and weather (894219)  
9.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative party (445035)



Out of this world: the satellite television team (8.30pm)

## 10.00 Resnick: Lonely Hearts.

CHOICE: Charlie Resnick is billed as an unconventional detective, though an addiction to sandwiches and jazz seems hardly to put him beyond the pale. Played by the excellent Tom Wilkinson, he is a rumpled, overweight Nottingham cop whose private life (divorced, no children, living alone) seems destined to occupy as much screen time as his work. Adapted from his novel by John Harvey, the three-part series promises to interweave a child abuse case with a murder investigation and introducing a social worker (Friona Victory) who could be the company Resnick is looking for. The murky photography looks like an attempt to imitate "style" but if some of the images lack clarity the narrative is sharp and lucid and fulfils the basic function of making us want to know what will happen next. (CeeFax) (s) (340509)

10.50 Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (881141)  
10.55 Film 92 with Barry Norman. Includes a report on last night's Oscars awards and a review of Goldie Hawn's new film *Deceived* (s) (815632). Northern Ireland: A Royal Occasion

11.25 Private Eye. American drama series set in the 1950s starring Michael Woods and Josh Brodin as private detectives Cleary and Betts. This week they are hired by a Hollywood sex symbol (267122). Northern Ireland: 11.30 Film 92 12.00 Black in Blue

12.15am On the Hustings (38517)  
12.45 Weather (4123420). Northern Ireland: 12.50-1.20 On the Hustings

## BBC 2

- 7.10 Open University: Drive for Quality (4008899). Ends at 7.35  
8.00 Breakfast News (9028054)  
8.15 Knickerbockers in Knightsbridge. A portrait of Hill House, one of Britain's largest prep schools, of which the Prince of Wales was once a pupil. (CeeFax) (9189122)  
9.00 Film: Madame X (1937, b/w). Gladys George as a woman who, after an accidental death, falls into degradation and despair and stands trial for murder. One of the lesser versions of a much-filmed story. Directed by Sam Wood (4496493)  
10.10 Film: The Gentle (1929, b/w) starring Guy Cooper and Ray Milland. Dashing version of P.C. Wren's French Foreign Legion drama, directed by William A. Wellman (8283873)  
12.00 Screen Painters. House screen painting in east Baltimore (30073)  
12.30 The Yukon Passage. Four young men retrace the steps of North American gold prospectors (r) (5106829)  
1.20 Mr Benn. Animated story narrated by Ray Brooks (r) (71553580)  
1.35 In the Post. How postal services have developed since ancient Egyptian times (r) (96258764)  
2.00 News and weather (74679586) followed by Look, Stranger. A portrait of Mary Davies, an inspector of historic buildings in the Borders (r) (4636812) 2.30 See Heart magazine for the hearing impaired (948)  
3.00 News and weather (3988764) followed by The High Chaparral. Vintage western series (r). (CeeFax) (6737832) 3.50 News, regional news and weather (4944493)  
4.00 Film: Blowing Wild (1953, b/w) starring Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck. Formula piece about an oil prospector in 1930s Mexico dealing with bandits and an unscrupulous woman. Directed by Hugo Bogdan (9189122)  
5.30 Gardener's World. Includes a report in the Yellow Book Scheme (r) (764)  
6.00 Film: The Wooden Horse (1950, b/w) starring Lee Genn and David Tomlinson. Well-made second world war drama, based on fact, about an escapee (Tomlinson) and his prisoners of war from Stalag Luft III. Directed by Jack Lee (9735757)  
7.40 Animation Now. An Inside Job (876035)  
7.50 Young Musician of the Year. Eleven young woodwind musicians compete in the second of the four semi-finals. Presented by Gillian Moore and Andrew Shulman (s) (159677)



Out of this world: the satellite television team (8.30pm)

8.30 KYTV. Spoof comedy series set inside the studios of a satellite television station (s) (9783)  
9.00 Quantum Leap. Scott Bakula stars as the time-trapped scientist in this off-beat science fiction drama. This week he emerges in April 1969 where he has the task of preventing a woman who thinks her husband has been killed in the Vietnam war from marrying another man. (CeeFax) (s) (855561)

9.50 40 Minutes. Solidarity Diary.  
CHOICE: Such is the flexibility of 40 Minutes that it can move effortlessly from a celebration of Radio Luxembourg to a sombre portrait of life on the occupied West Bank. The diarist of the title is Yehiel Shuster, a 43-year-old Israeli sent to police the Palestinians as part of his annual reserve duty in the army. It is not a job he relishes. He cannot go along with the mindless harassment of the Arabs and as a refugee himself (from Gush Katif) he sympathises more with the locals than the occupiers. Whether his feelings are typical of the Israeli forces is not revealed. Shuster is certainly out of step with the Jewish settler community, among whom boys in their early teens talk of doing to the Arabs what Hitler did to the Jews. After Pauline Curran's TV film from Gaza, this has not been a good week for the Israeli cause. (CeeFax) (187967)

10.25 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative party. (CeeFax) (862548)  
10.35 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (888306)  
11.30 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (93615)  
12.00 Weather (5022468)  
12.05am Open University: Science — Jamaica and the Sea (4110401). Ends at 12.35

1.00pm All the Kids Do It (1984) Scott Baco plays a tragic diver (25959)  
2.00 Across the Great Divide (1977): Cross country adventure (25777)  
4.00 Mystery Mansion (1983): Drama about descendants of a pioneer family (51451815)  
6.00 Joe Versus the Volcano (1990): Faber with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan (88141)  
8.00 Running on Air (1989): Political satire about the run for the White House (94570)  
10.00 Blue Steel (1990): Jamie Lee Curtis plays a rookie cop (67073)  
11.45 Comedy Central (1990): Scooby horror about brain-slapping action (85834)  
1.40am Concert Action (1978): A former CIA agent finds himself in a tight spot (23508)  
3.00 Enigmas (1988): Film noir about a musician in a murder plot (257178)  
4.35 Bananal (1986): Futuristic action adventure (194023). Ends at 6.00

THE MOVIE CHANNEL  
Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.  
6.00am The Great American Garage (1988): Chariton Heston plays a quarterback (6158832)  
8.00 The Seaquest (1986): James Mason stars in the children's television series (575021)  
10.25 Wee Willie Winkie (1937): Burt Reynolds plays a detective assigned to protect a comical (75697)  
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## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (3994631)  
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word association game show hosted by Lennie Bennett (931967) 9.55 Thames News (6496054)  
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a topical discussion (6945431)  
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series (4714948)  
12.10 Playback. For the very young (r) (9617306)  
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (CeeFax) (7096948) 1.10 Thames News (7745951)  
1.20 Home and Away. (CeeFax) (6303967) 1.50 A Country Practice (s) (9626297)  
2.20 Herihome. John Bly and guest expert David Battie identify and value Japanese porcelain and ivory brought in by the studio audience (4636778) 2.50 Families (s) (6467567)  
3.15 ITN News headlines (3998141) 3.20 Thames News headlines (3995054) 3.25 The Young Doctors (8376306)  
3.55 Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends, narrated by Michael Angelis (493029) 4.05 Disney's Duck Tales. Cartoon (6886122)  
4.30 Cartoon. Porky Pig in the Wearing of the Grin (556764) 4.40 Just Us. Last in the children's drama series (s) (905257)  
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz game (8063696)  
5.40 Early Evening News with John Sucher. (CeeFax) (214325)  
6.00 Home and Away (r). (CeeFax) (431)  
6.30 Thames News. (CeeFax) (780219)  
6.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Conservative party (116870)  
7.00 Emmerdale. Bureaucratic soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (CeeFax) (8054)  
7.30 Solve My Problem. Health is his evening's topic with a sister in a chronic illness ward in a Salford, Greater Manchester, hospital, showing a film she has made about the problems she faces every day. She asks Virginia Bottomley, Robin Cook and David Bellotti what can be done to help (967)  
8.00 The Bill: Stopover. A local guest house owner complains about regular break-ins by an intruder that nobody else has seen. Garfield, who investigates, thinks the woman is imagining things. (CeeFax) (7702)  
8.30 The Benny Hill Show. The first in a series of compilations from the saucy comedian's past shows (s) (3509)



Joining the hospital team: Sue Johnston, Tom Baker (8.00pm)

9.00 Medics.  
CHOICE: After a lustrous performance in the first series the hospital drama has undergone sweeping cast changes, with the accent on experience. In comes Tom Baker, who has filled out since Dr Who days and would be an excellent choice for Roy Hattersley in a biopic of Labour's deputy leader. Here he plays a flamboyant surgeon who grows marrows and keeps chickens. The team is also strengthened by Sue Johnston as a penny-pinching administrator. "Re-vitalised", the show promises to tackle the issues of the "troubled" National Health Service in the 1990s. With memories of Conservative attacks on *Casualty*, this could be a tricky objective in the middle of an election campaign. But on the evidence of tonight's low-key opener, Chris Patten is unlikely to be picking up the telephone just yet. (CeeFax) (6306)

10.00 News at Ten. (CeeFax) (35528) 10.30 Thames News  
10.40 Extraordinary People. Across the Jade Divide. This last in the series profiles Keith Huxley who traces the journey taken 50 years ago by his father from a Shanghai internment camp to safety 2,000 miles away. (CeeFax) (695896)  
11.40 Prisoner: Call Block H. Australian drama series (885677)  
12.30 Video View. The latest video releases reviewed (13710)  
1.30 Video Tales starring Adam Faith as an indolent private detective (61163)

1.40 The Equalizer. McCall is asked to find the men who raped and beat up a pregnant woman. Starring Edward Woodward (r) (475388)  
2.30 Donahue. American chat show (85710)  
3.30 60 Minutes. News magazine from the United States (97555)  
4.30 Entertainment UK. A guide to the country's leisure scene (12888)  
5.30 ITN Morning News (80975). Ends at 6.00

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